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VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT ON CONTADORA GROUP EFFORTS

PA180120 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 2113 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Interview with Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins at Quinta San Pedro Alejandrino in Santa Marta, on 17 December 1983; questioners not indentified -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Herrera Campins] I am very pleased to see that this has been a year of much [word indistinct] and historical importance [words indistinct] deomcratic ideals. Thus, we are making Bolivar's dream partially come true. In addition, we will meet in Cartagena [words indistinct] to sign an agreement between the Andean Pact and the EEC, which will, of course, be extraordinarily important for trade [words indistinct] will undeniably result in benefits for the two sides. We, in particular, will benefit because our exports will have access to the markets of industrialized countries. This has been one of our great aspirations.

[Reporter] How do you view the future of the Andean Pact?

[Herrera Campins] It is progressing well, with some problems that are to be expected at a time of worldwide crisis. But our governments have the political will to keep it working and to make sure that it will not just be limited to the economic sphere, but will be extended to solve problems in the fields of culture, health, agriculture, the conservation of resources, and labor.

[Question indistinct]

[Herrera Campins] I think that in Venezuela we have further consolidated our democratic process, which we began in January 1958. We have pushed for very important policies domestically and internationally, particularly the institutionalization of democracy and freedom. Venezuela has traditionally been a hotbed of the democratic ideas of the continent. After 5 years, we see that deomcracy has advanced and has been realized in Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Honduras, [words indistinct]. It has been realized in a geographic area of approximately 14 million kilometers on this continent, and this has been ground lost by the dictatorships and the de facto governments. We have made good progress in this direction. In addition, there are prospects for democratization, such as the consolidation of democracy in Panama with the upcoming elections, and the elections that are scheduled in Ecuador to consolidate its institutionalization, as well as those in El Salvador and Guatemala. In other words, democracy has truly gained ground.

We are also proud and very pleased to work, together with our Colombian, Mexican, and Panamanian brothers, in the Contadora Group. If there is no war now in Central America, it is truly because of Contadora. This group is not only an important political force, because of the nations which comprise it, but a broad moral force because of the proposals it advances. Contadora is sometimes asked to render tangible fruits too rapidly, considering the length of time it has been in operation. We are sure that in the end, all this is going to be very positive.

[Reporter] What prospects do you see for Contadora?

[Herrera Campins] Contadora is really Central America's hope for peace. More political will is required from the Central American governments, and more support is needed from the sectors that desire peace.

FRG MAGAZINE INTERVIEWS PRESIDENT ALFONSIN

DW200959 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 19 Dec 83 pp 108-113

[Interview with Argentine President Raul Alfonsin by DER SPIEGEL editors Walter Tauber and Sieg ried Kogelfranz in Buenos Aires, date not given]

[Text] SPIEGEL: Mr President, after nearly 8 years of military dictatorship, you have a great many problems -- a record inflation rate of 400 percent, more than $40 billion in foreign debts which you can hardly pay; the Falklands war which was lost and for which the military at the last moment picked some scapegoats, whom you are supposed to convict and perhaps even have shot under military law....

Alfonsin: No, no.

SPIEGEL: And as a final gift, the officers presented you with the atomic bomb a week before your inauguration. Do you really need it?

Alfonsin: No, definitely not. It is obvious that we are taking charge of the government in a particularly difficult situation. However, I am firmly convinced that our country will start moving briskly again. First of all, we will tackle the problems which are bound to worry us most -- the state of justice and human rights.

SPIEGEL: However, the bomb exists and is smouldering in your hands, as a cartoonist pictured it.

Alfonsin: No, what we have been left is not a bomb; it is nothing more than the technology for uranium enrichment....

SPIEGEL: ...which Argentina has developed with German assistance and which makes the production of a bomb possible within a short time.

Alfonsin: It is not a bomb yet, nor will it ever become one. I personally will oversee everything connected with nuclear energy.

SPIEGEL: It is at least a political bomb.

Alfonsin: No, not even that. The world should know that our government has no hostile intentions linked with the development of nuclear technology.

SPIEGEL: What will you do with the second ticklish matter? The report on those culpable for the Falklands war may well lead to the execution of your predecessor, General Galtieri.

Alfonsin: All that is available so far is the report by an investigating committee. The trial before the Supreme Military Tribunal has not yet taken place. However, I'm against capital punishment in any event.

SPIEGEL: A conflict is inevitable with the military men from whom you assumed power, because you intend to reduce the military budget by more than half -- a budget which the generals so generously approved for themselves in the past few years.

Alfonsin: During our term of office, we will indeed reduce defense expenditures by a considerable percentage starting with next year's budget.

However, I don't think that this will create conflict because I myself will be commanding the Armed Forces. In addition, we will be able to count on those people in the Armed Forces who, like ourselves, are convinced that the best defense for our country is its political, economic, and social progress. We propose to invest the money we save from the military budget in health and education, which is undoubtedly more productive.

SPIEGEL: Will you also go after the generous privileges of the officer class -- the free housing, inexpensive cars, and special imports?

Alfonsin: We will act within the framework of a state of justice and thus eliminate all privileges that may exist in the military as well as in other fields.

SPIEGEL: What do you propose to do with the military-industrial complex controlled by the generals?

Alfonsin: We will make sure that it is fully under the control of the civilian Defense Ministry.

SPIEGEL: Under the Constitution, as the president you are the supreme commander of the Armed Forces. The former junta has dissolved itself. How many of the previously all-powerful generals do you plan to remove to ensure your authority?

Alfonsin: This is not a question of authority. The important thing is to streamline the Armed Forces. For this reason, a sizeable number of generals will probably retire.

SPIEGEL: Thereby exonerating the Armed Forces from the deeds committed during their era? As a cofounder of the Argentine Human Rights Assembly, you are, after all, aware how many Argentines were murdered during the years of the junta.

Alfonsin: The judiciary will handle that problem.

SPIEGEL: You don't want to have a parliamentary investigating committee?

Alfonsin: That will be up to Congress. There is talk about a two-chamber committee. I am neither for nor against this. What I demand is that everything be thoroughly investigated and that we find out what happened to those who disappeared.

SPIEGEL: Just prior to the elections, the military quickly fashioned a law for themselves which grants them amnesty. What will you do in the face of this?

Alfonsin: We will annul that law. This will be one of my first official acts. In my opinion, this law is null and void.

SPIEGEL: The junta used at least four competing intelligence services as executive organs for the commission of its crimes. What will you do with them?

Alfonsin: I have put a civilian in charge of the civilian intelligence service. As for the others, we will ensure that they restrict themselves to their purely military mission.

SPIEGEL: Do you think that these people will now work for you?

Alfonsin: I hope so.

SPIEGEL: If you leave the matter of repression up to the judiciary, the courts will be overloaded by a flood of trials; the human rights organization have already prepared 6,000 proceedings....

SPIEGEL: ...and thus 6,000 possible trials.

Alfonsin: The figure of 6,000 stands for the number of people who disappeared; this doesn't mean that there will be 6,000 charges as well.

SPIEGEL: In any event, there will be an avalanche of trials. Wouldn't a procedure like the Nuremberg war crimes trial be more suited for clearing the air?

Alfonsin: We don't want a Nuremberg. Anyway, our Constitution prohibits special tribunals.

SPIEGEL: What would happen if the military reads in the papers every morning that some general has been arrested and some colonel convicted?

Alfonsin: You can put your mind at rest in that respect. Whatever happens, there will not be a coup d'etat in Argentina again.

SPIEGEL: Are you sure about that?

Alfonsin: Absolutely.

SPIEGEL: Why?

Alfonsin: Because that's the way it is. Formerly, there were always coups d'etat because civilians knocked on garrison doors. Now, after what they have experienced in recent years, all Argentines have become more mature.

SPIEGEL: The military also left you with a ruined economy. Argentina, once one of the world's rich countries, has become one of the poorest debtors nations. The country of immigrants and investments has turned into a country of emigrants and capital drain. How could a country become so completely ruined?

Alfonsin: By the application of the monetaristic economic theories of the Chicago school. We ran up debts by importing goods that we formerly had produced ourselves. We ran into debt as our factories closed and unemployment grew. However, it's not just our fault. We were discriminated against in trade by the EC and, of course, by the United States. This was done, for instance, by prohibiting the sale of our meat on the world market. Still, we are convinced that in future we will be able to count on the solidarity of the European democracies, and we expect such solidarity particularly from the FRG.

SPIEGEL: Solidarity sounds nice, but what do the Argentines propose to do themselves?

Alfonsin: We will refinance our foreign debts in keeping with our possibilities. We are not willing to pay exorbitant interest rates because this would merely guarantee that we would never be able to pay off our debts. We will work with all our strength to develop our economy and we will attempt to live up to our commitments, in line with our exports.

SPIEGEL: That doesn't look so good. Some $20 billion in interest and repayments will be due in 1984. However, the export surplus that can be expected will at best amount to $3 billion. How do you propose to balance this bill?

Alfonsin: By refinancing the debts. We will demand a moratorium such as that granted by the international banks to Poland. In this respect, we also expect the solidarity of the world's democracies.

SPIEGEL: Argentina has complained that it is being treated worse than, say, Brazil.

Alfonsin: From now on Argentina will be treated very well.

SPIEGEL: Is the appointment of Raul Prebisch, one of Latin America's most respected economists, indicative of a harsher course by Argentina toward the banks and the IMF?

Alfonsin: We will simply state that it is absurd to pursue the forcible collection of a debt without allowing the debtor to make the money he needs to repay this debt. The foreign exchange for paying the debt comes from exports. Thus, everything hinges on the sales that we can make on the world market. We are convinced that the international financial world will understand this.

SPIEGEL: What are the terms you have in mind for repaying the debts?

Alfonsin: We believe that we can pay everything off within 15 years.

SPIEGEL: Within 15 years?

Alfonsin: Between 15 and 20 years.

SPIEGEL: Will you act on your own, or jointly with other debtor nations such as Brazil or Mexico?

Alfonsin: I believe that the Latin American countries need to coordinate their financial policies. In addition, we must work toward economic integration with Mexico, Brazil, and all other countries of the continent.

SPIEGEL: An early conflict with the IMF can already be foreseen because you intend to raise the minimum wage by 70 percent.

Alfonsin: No, we want to raise it to 3,200 Argentine pesos (about DM500). I don't want to say anything about general percentage rates. It is important to help the poorest people, and this serves social justice. Besides, this will stimulate the revitalization of the Argentine economy.

SPIEGEL: So you're turning your back on monetaristic economic policy. You're said to have some social democratic ideas....

Alfonsin: People say that I am a social democrat. In my party, we do support social democracy -- so we are relatively close.

SPIEGEL: The Peronist trade unions continue to be a significant power factor in Argentina. Their strike appeals are strictly followed. Do you fear a conflict here?

Alfonsin: I don't expect any serious conflicts. I believe that everyone is convinced that it is necessary for the trade unions to democratize themselves.

SPIEGEL: So far they have been led by authoritarian executive boards. How do you propose to counter that?

Alfonsin: The election tribunals must also be responsible for the trade union elections. One of my first official acts will be to ensure that this is done.

SPIEGEL: Do you intend in this way to break the Peronist dominance over the unions?

Alfonsin: No, I'm not interested in the political opinion of individual trade union members. I also do not want any radical trade unions; the representatives of the workers should be above parties.

SPIEGEL: What can your neighbors expect of Argentina's new government? You're still surrounded by military dictatorships. Will democratic Argentina set some signals?

Alfonsin: We will respect the principle of the sovereignty of peoples. We will not intervene in any country, but we will quite definitely work for the democratization of the continent.

SPIEGEL: Your foreign minister, Dante Caputo, has already said that Argentina will now become an example for Latin America. How is that meant, specifically?

Alfonsin: We will support Latin America's integration. I don't believe a European Common Market would have been possible with Hitler and Mussolini. Bearing this in mind, we are convinced that we Latin Americans need democracy in all our countries.

SPIEGEL: The most important, even though not direct, neighbor of Latin America is the United States, which regards the subcontinent as its back yard. This was again illustrated by the invasion of Grenada. How do you assess your relations with the United States?

Alfonsin: We want the best possible relations with the United States, but on a civilized basis. It must be understood that there are different, even contradictory, interests.

SPIEGEL: Do you have any concrete demands on the United States?

Alfonsin: Certainly, I have some.

SPIEGEL: What are they?

Alfonsin: Respect for the principle of noninterference; the struggle against any trace of neocolonialism; the defense of our democracy in the same manner as the United States defends its own. We also want to be able to sell our products on the world markets.

SPIEGEL: Your trade with the Soviet Union is very significant.

Alfonsin: The Soviet Union is our most important customer. I intend to continue selling it as much as I can as long as you don't buy anything from us. What else should I do, anyway?

SPIEGEL: You have the border problem with your neighbor Chile involving the Beagle Channel. This has already nearly led to war...

Alfonsin: ...this must be resolved as soon as possible.

SPIEGEL: How?

Alfonsin: We intend to settle the quarrel very quickly on the basis of the pope's mediation.

SPIEGEL: There was war on the Falkland Islands, which led to the withdrawal of the military to their garrisons and to your move into the presidential palace. The problem of the Malvinas, as you call the islands, remains. What do you propose to do about it?

Alfonsin: Get them back.

SPIEGEL: How?

Alfonsin: We will fight for this in all international institutions. In this respect as well, we are also counting on the solidarity of the world's democracies.

SPIEGEL: You don't intend to try a military solution again, do you?

Alfonsin: At least not as long as we are weaker than Great Britain; but I don't mean this seriously, of course.

SPIEGEL: Mr President, in the past half century, only Argentine heads of state were able to complete their terms of office normally, without any coup. Do you believe you will be able to serve your 6 years in Casa Rosada with no trouble?

Alfonsin: Not only do I believe that; I'm postive that we in Argentina now have 100 years of peace, prosperity, and democracy before us.

SPIEGEL: That was your election campaign slogan.

Alfonsin: I mean it.

SPIEGEL: Suppose the military strikes again after all. What will you do? There has never been any serious resistance in the past -- President Illia went home by taxi when he was overthrown; Peron escaped to a Paraguayan ship in port. Would you offer resistance, as did Chile's Salvador Allende?

Alfonsin: I don't even think about this, because there will be no coup against us; definitely not, I know this. There will be a continuing popular movement to defend democracy in Argentina.

SPIEGEL: Mr President, thank you for granting this interview.

FORMER PRESIDENT BIGNONE TO BE PROSECUTED

PY210131 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1642 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Dec (TELAM) -- Dr Carlos Olivieri, criminal trial judge of the third chamber, has ordered that former President Reynaldo Bignone be prosecuted in connection with the lawsuit filed with regard to the disappearance of Pablo Steimberg and Luis Daniel Garcia, who were members of the Communist Youth Federation.

The announcement was made by Dr Horacio Santiago Rebon, the attorney for the plaintiffs, who are the parents of the two Communist Party members. Steimberg and Garcia disappeared while complying with their compulsory military service at the military school of the nation, whose director at that time was Reynaldo Bignone.

Even though there have been no official reports -- summary secrecy was instituted last Friday -- it was learned that Steimberg was kidnapped on 10 August 1976 and that Garcia disappeared 2 days later.

A communique released to the media by Rebon also stated that the court injunctions filed with various courts between 1976 and 1980 have thus far yielded negative results.

NAVY JOINT STAFF ANNOUNCES OFFICER APPOINTMENTS

PY210217 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2040 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Dec (TELAM) -- The Navy Joint Staff disclosed this afternoon the appointments of high-ranking Navy officers.

Rear Admiral Raul Alberto Marini has been appointed deputy chief of the Navy Joint Staff; Rear Admiral Eduardo Rivero Kelly has been appointed naval attache to the Argentine embassies in the United States and Canada, and delegate to the Inter-American Defense Board; Rear Admiral Barry Malbourne Houssey has been appointed Navy secretary general; and Rear Admiral Norman Azcoitia has been appointed director general of Navy Personnel.

POLICE INCIDENT INVOLVING DRUGS REPORTED

PY202138 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0312 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Dec (TELAM) -- Police sources report that more than 50 people, including several minors, were arrested during incidents that took place at Plaza de la Republica tonight.

The sources indicated that the detainees are being held at the first and third police stations. The arrests followed a confusing and drawn out incident in which several policemen were reportedly slightly injured and a tow-truck and a patrol car seriously damaged.

According to the police sources, the incident occurred after it was reported that signs with inscriptions such as "Marijuana" and "No Restrictions on Consumption" were seen in the area, and that there were people offering cigarettes to passers-by in the neighborhood.

Concerning the minors, it was learned that they were transferred to the correctional institution for minors on orders from federal judge Dr Servini de Cubria, who has criminal jurisdiction. The minors will face charges for encouraging crimes, for breaking law No 20,771 on drugs, and for attacking and resisting police.

Interior Ministry Communique

PY210021 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Dec (TELAM) -- The Interior Ministry today called upon all sectors of society to responsibly defend the liberty that the Argentines have recovered.

In a communique, the ministry reiterated that individual freedom and constitutional guarantees will be respected in an atmosphere of mutual tolerance.

The communique, which was released at Government House in view of the events that occurred in downtown Buenos Aires last night, reads:

"With regard to the incidents that took place at Plaza de la Republica last night, an explanation has been requested from the federal police, the Interior Ministry hereby once again reiterates that individual freedom and constitutional guarantees will be respected in an atmosphere of mutual tolerance. To this end, this ministry will continue making all efforts to prevent, once and for all, the peaceful expression of the opinions of the people from turning into disorder.

"The resolution of democracy and harmonious social coexistence calls for the effort, understanding, and participation of all citizens. That is why all sectors of society are hereby called upon to responsibly defend the liberty that the Argentines have recovered.

"After a long period during which institutions were disregarded, some forms of behavior and reactions still persist among personnel of the security forces. These forms of behavior and reactions must be cast aside once and for all. This task, which calls for time, persuasion, and the strict application of disciplinary regulations, is an essential part of the orders that this ministry has issued. This ministry is determined to ensure that these orders are followed. In addition, only in this way will the agencies in charge of preserving public order recover their legitimate prestige.

"The courts will be in charge of establishing the responsibility of those who took part in the above incidents. This will be the best guarantee for individual rights. This ministry will continue struggling for the preservation of those rights."

Police Chief Comments

PY210101 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1507 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 D[illegible]c (TELAM) -- Inspector General Antonio di Vietri, the head of the Federal Police, said today that the incidents that occurred in the vicinity of the obelisk on Monday evening, and which resulted in the arrest of 53 persons, 8 of them minors, were provoked by parties with their own interests at stake.

In a statement to a radio station, Di Vietri explained that otherwise, the incidents would not have been as serious as they were.

The police chief referred to the violent actions that have occurred in several areas, stressing that such actions are almost deliberately repeated. He justified the attitude adopted by police personnel on the grounds that they tried to be persuasive, but had to take action when they were disrupted. Therefore, he explained, the police did not merely repel an attack, they did their duty.

Di Vietri held a meeting with Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli today. During the meeting, Di Vietri explained, the minister received a thorough report on the incidents.

Addressing journalists, the police chief said: "I ask you not to play the game of those who defend such interests." He said he did not know why so much significance has been attached to the incidents, which began, after all, with an illegal action.

The police chief concluded by saying: I don't believe too many parents would like their sons to be given marijuana cigarettes free of charge, an action that gave rise to police intervention and to the incidents.

INTERIOR MINISTER ON DETAINEES, INTELLIGENCE

PY192356 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2100 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 16 Dec (TELAM) -- Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli has estimated that there are a couple hundred political detainees serving sentences imposed by military courts. Troccoli said that in order to review these cases, two simultaneous and convergent procedures have been proposed through draft bills submitted to congress.

Habeas corpus is an expeditious procedure in which a case is not reviewed, but which may result in the defendant's immediate release from jail. The other procedure involves a petition by the defendant to a court of law asking that his case be reviewed in order to either be acquitted or not; whatever the decision, the case is reviewed, anyway, Troccoli said.

In statements to newsmen assigned to Government House, Troccoli said: I personally hope that in a few days, hopefully before the end of the year, we will be able to announce a significant reorganization within the Federal police aimed at placing it at the service of the guiding tenets of the democratic system.

Concerning the abolishment of the intelligence services, Troccoli said that this is part of the military reform being conducted by the Defense Ministry. He said: We believe these services should report directly to the president.

BRAZILIAN DEPUTY DELIVERS MISSING CITIZENS LIST

PY210300 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Excerpts] A list of 13 Brazilian citizens, who disappeared under mysterious circumstances in Argentina, and most of whom were in exile, was submitted to President Raul Alfonsin today by Deputy Eduardo (Badarrados Mulequi), who recently led a Brazilian congressional delegation that went to Buenos Aires to attend Alfonsin's inauguration.

PRESIDENT SILES ZUAZO RETURNS FROM COLOMBIA

PY210119 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] President Hernan Siles Zuazo returned to La Paz in a Colombian presidential airplane provided by Colombian President Betancur.

The constitutional president arrived in La Paz at 1725 today. He was met by the entire cabinet, high officials of his party, and vice president Jaime Paz Zamora. The chief of state was given military honors by an Air Force battalion. The president then left for the San Jorge presidential residence where he met with his close advisers. About 100 militants of the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement of the Left [MNRI] welcomed the president at the airport.

SILES TO MEET VARIOUS NATIONAL SECTORS

PY210231 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Jose Ortiz Mercado, who returned from the Colombian capital today, said that only a military coup in any of the Bolivarian countries can stop the cooperation agreements between Bolivia and the EEC. He added that the EEC vice president said that only democracy can guarantee relations with the EEC.

In conclusion, Minister Ortiz Mercado said that the president is going to meet with different sectors of the country in the next few days.

[Begin Ortiz recording] The president is going to meet with various sectors of national activity, but for the time being the resigning ministers will continue in the cabinet. In the next few days the president will report on the results of these meetings. [end recording]

SILES ZUAZO INTERVIEWED ON DOMESTIC ISSUES

PM202101 Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 14 Dec 83 p 18

[Interview with Bolivian President Siles Zuazo by Santiago Placios in Buenos Aires -- no date given]

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires -- Bolivian President Siles Zuazo, who has attended Raul Alfonsin's inauguration in Buenos Aires, has spoken with LA VANGUARDIA and expressed his opinion on the most urgent issues.

"My government's democratic stability is not in danger. The proof is that we have attended this inauguration. We have left power in the hands of Vice President of the Republic Jaime Paz Zamora, who is one of the leaders of the opposition. We would not have come if there had been real dangers."

However, the press daily reflects the high plateau country's upheavals, but in the president's opinion, "the reports do not reflect the reality. The government is strongly supported by the people's will, and on several occasions the Armed Forces and the trade union organizations have reiterated their support for the democratic process."

Nor does Zuazo accept that there is a conflict between the executive and legislative powers: "It is a struggle that occurs everywhere in the struggle for power. We all wish to proceed democratically through elections. Next year we have called for municipal elections, despite the fact that we are experiencing a difficult economic situation, and even though from the viewpoint of self-interest, it would be the least favorable time to call them."

Socialist With Indigenist Ideas

Nationalistic -- an unusual characteristic in Bolivia -- Siles Zuazo's leftism is a mixture of socialism and indigenist ideas. However, he has always sought to make economic independence a banner of struggle, which is impossible in impoverished Bolivia.

"The probable influence of the new Argentine situation could help us resolve the economic problems. If they improve with the contribution of foreign credits, we will be able to have a little breathing space, beyond the payment of the outstanding debt for the purchase of gas." This debt, it is worth explaining, currently totals $270 million; a figure which does not seem significant but is for a country like Bolivia, whose total reserves amount to $10 million.

"We have no relations or direct dealing with the IMF. However, even if there were, they would not subject us to antipeople and antinational terms," Zuazo explained, as if to not impair his ideological profile.

However, the question is whether the opposition and the trade unions, which are reiterating their plans for struggle, will tolerate economic plans that are not aimed at securing assistance in the international financial centers.

"I believe that they will be a source of objections, but will not have an alternative proposal. Moreover, that could give rise to a national insurrection if the differences intensify," he argued.

Zuazo, a fluent speaker with a steady voice, believes that "Alfonsin's constitutional government constitutes a strengthening of democracy throughout Latin America, and also Bolivia. As a result, the historic importance of this situation is that saber rattling is beginning to recede. The time is approaching when it will be possible to seriously consider the replacement of war budgets with peace budgets. That will bring us closer to a joint action that could make it possible to set up a democratic international society in order to defeat many of the factors of poverty and social injustice and even stem the dangers of imperialist expansion."

"No to Interference"

The president believes that "the coordination of efforts between Bolivia and Argentina in the democratic direction will have importance toward the north, Uruguay, and even Mexico, which is a kind of shield of sovereignty for the peoples to the south of the United States."

Zuazo conluded -- or sought to conclude -- his dialogue with a reference to Central America. First, he emphasized that "my country will seek support from Argentina in order to secure an outlet to the sea and end an historic injustice." He added: "We believe that the solution could emerge through the Contadora Group.

I believe that we should all join to ensure that the peace moves are not fruitless. We cannot apathetically allow the constant bloodletting in Central America, nor can we accept imperialist interference." [paragraph as published]

He was already leaving when the journalist asked him to define "his own enemies" in Bolivia: "the extreme right and a group of military personnel expelled by the Armed Forces."

With his ability as a born negotiator and his faith in popular support and social democracy, Siles Zuazo is continuing to face up to precisely these sectors, attempting not to lose constitutional stability.

PAZ ZAMORA, MILITARY COMMAND DISCUSS TERRORISM

PY200218 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Defense Minister Manuel Cardenas has revealed that Acting President Jaime Paz Zamora had called in the military high command to obtain information on military activities. A long meeting took place at the government palace during which the cases of the detainees at Luribay, the Hillman case, and the case of Sergeant (Valda) of the naval force were discussed.

The defense minister explained that the cases of terrorists within the military jurisdiction are being investigated according to existing regulations. However, he said that drug trafficking is not within the jurisdiction of the Armed Forces.

[Paris AFP in Spanish at 1719 GMT on 18 December reports that a La Paz criminal court has "ordered the release" of Humberto Hillman Aguilera, who had been arrested last June by Army personnel on charges of organizing leftist guerrillas after having received military training in Cuba.]

GOVERNMENT SELLS T-27 TUCANO PLANES TO EGYPT

PY192126 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Dec 83 p 6

[By Roberto Godoy]

[Excerpts] Yesterday EMBRAER [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] announced that it has closed a $188 million deal (some 170,140,000,000 cruzeiros) for the sale of 120 turboprop, jet trainer, ground attack T-27 Tucano aircraft to Egypt. This order accounts for the largest transaction in EMBRAER history.

Engineer Ozires Silva, EMBRAER president, signed the contract in Cairo a week ago, but the signing was kept secret "until a few final details were cleared up."

This is also the first time a local industrial company that exports advanced technology products signed a contract for building an assembly line at the place of delivery. Thus, only the first 40 planes will be entirely built at the Sao Jose dos Campos plant all the others will be sent in modules for assembly at the Heiwan Industrial Park in southern Egypt. The park is maintained by the Arab Industrial Organization. The contract foresees early delivery of the aircraft, which will be flown to Cairo beginning in the second half of 1984.

A new aspect was considered in the deal, namely, that the aircraft capabilities have been expanded from merely cheap jet trainers for military pilots, to aircraft with satisfactory performance in antiguerrilla missions. In fact, at low altitude and outside the range of radar, the Tucano can fly at medium speed carrying a ton of bombs and weapons. The Gabonese and the Honduran Governments are also interested in the Tucano, because of its applicability in antiterrorist actions. The aircraft can provide several combinations, like multiple 37-mm or 50-mm missile launchers, 115-kg or 225-kg bombs, and 7.62-mm or 12.7-mm caliber machineguns. A more powerful combination would involve four 127-mm heavy missiles and a digital sighting system. As a bomber, it can carry 4 120-kg bombs over a distance of 852 km; it can overfly the target for 3 minutes, and it can return to its base with enough reserves for a 15-minute flight. The aircraft electronics are as advanced as the T-38 Talon jets that the U.S. Air Force uses for training its cadets. Thus, the T-27 covers the five major pilot training areas: communication, navigation, instrument flying, target exercises, tactical applications, and aerobatics.

The Tucano can reach a maximum speed of 457 km per hour in horizontal flight. Its maximum diving speed surpasses 500 km per hour.

FIGUEIREDO RAISES PUBLIC SERVANTS SALARIES

PY210017 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] President Figueiredo signed a decree increasing salaries of federal public servants by 65 percent. This decree will go into effect on 1 January 1984. The percentage for the next salary readjustment will be announced on 1 July 1984. Salaries for top level advisers were increased by the same percentage.

FOREIGN MINISTER DEL VALLE'S REMARKS CITED

Relations With U.S.

PY201715 Paris AFP in Spanish 2348 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] Santiago, 19 Dec (AFP) -- Upon assuming his new duties, Chilean Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle noted today that Chile will strive to strenghten its ties with the United States. Jaime del Valle replaces Miguel Schweitzer, who resigned for personal reasons.

He noted: Bilateral relations are always important, and it is obvious that the United States is a very important country. Chile has always maintained very good relations with the United States, and it hopes they will remain that way.

Del Valle announced that in the next few days, he will appoint Chilean ambassadors to the United States and Argentina. Both of these embassies have been entrusted to charge d'affaires since Enrique Valenzuela and Sergio Onofre Jarpa, Chilean ambassadors to the United States and Argentina, respectively, were transferred from their diplomatic posts to other government positions.

Priority to Beagle Issue

PY201750 Paris AFP in Spanish 2256 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Santiago, 19 Dec (AFP) -- Chilean Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle stated today that one of the priority areas of his administration will be resolving the dispute with Argentina over the Beagle Channel, through papal mediation.

After assuming his duties, replacing Miguel Schweitzer, who resigned last Thursday for personal reasons, Jaime del Valle noted that the first priority will be mediation. He added that we might be surprised and find that things may move quickly.

He added that there is a Foreign Ministry team exclusively engaged in the papal mediation, and it periodically informs President Pinochet about the progress achieved.

Del Valle said: "Like any Chilean, I am greatly interested in this problem." He noted that other important problems concerning Chilean foreign policy are the pending problems with Bolivia and the announced meeting of foreign ministers from Pacific coast countries.

U.S. 'CERTIFICATION' PROCEDURES CRITICIZED

PY201355 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 13 Dec 83 p A-3

[Editorial: "Criteria for Certification"]

[Text] Some people must certainly be wondering about the silence that various sectors, which are always very quick to spot any transnational or imperialist violations of Chile's sovereignty, are maintaining regarding U.S. "certification" and the conditions it requires.

Certification is undoubtedly a unique mechanism. It calls for one nation to issue a certificate on the internal situation of another nation that is supposed to be its equal, in legal terms. The United States has just granted that certification to Argentina after the election of President Alfonsin, thus lifting the embargo on arms sale and creating favorable prospects in other areas.

During his recent visit to Buenos Aires, Vice President Bush clearly spelled out the criteria upon which certification is based: "free elections, freedom of the press, religious freedom, and freedom of political affiliation."

He spelled out the criteria clearly, but not completely, because anyone can think of other factors that could be taken into consideration in applying the mechanism of certification. Other factors, which in the case of Argentina were not taken into consideration, might include respect for international treaties, respect for international law, respect for the sovereignty of third countries, relations of the country to be certified with the Soviet Union, cooperation with U.S. foreign policy, including participation in U.S. trade embargoes against the Soviet Union, the terrorist or Castro-communist character of the challenge to a regime, or the geopolitical imbalance that can be created by discriminatory certification.

The Chilean Government has maintained a dignified posture in this regard. We are not requesting a foreign power to issue a certificate of good behavior in our own behalf, and we are not passing judgment on the fact that certification is extended to other nations, but not to us.

There is no need to prove that the U.S. certification has a value that can, conceivably, be expressed in hundreds or even thousands of millions of dollars. Certification may therefore be desirable and even necessary, although it has no moral weight.

Although it has not qualified for certification, our country has scrupulously complied with international law, met its financial commitments, staunchly defended itself against the greatest totalitarian threat of our times, and methodically moved forward on the difficult path leading to democratic forms of government. Despite all that, we have not met Washington's criteria of good behavior, particularly at a time when elections in the United States are drawing near. The path we have taken can, however, turn out to be more effective, albeit less dramatic, in achieving the institutional stability to which most Chileans aspire.

As has been said in this column, other countries have great difficulty in understanding what is really happening in our country. Foreign governments' ideas about political liberalization have not changed. On the contrary, it seems that international analysts of the present Chilean situation are badly confused. Fortunately, the Chilean public can already see profound changes in the nation's political practices and can perceive the will to develop procedures to channel reasonable aspirations.

Regardless of what has been said above, the question of certification should cause us to be all the more careful in handling our internal situation, inasmuch as it affects public opinion abroad in a manner that should not be underestimated.

BOMB EXPLODES AT VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY

PY210130 Paris AFP in Spanish 2144 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Valparaiso, Chile, 20 Dec (AFP) -- A bomb went off today at the Santa Maria University's main offices in Valparaiso, 140 km west of Santiago. There were no reports by police of injuries or serious damage.

The blast occurred this afternoon near the office of the rector trustee appointed by the military government, Vice Admiral Ismael Huerta, at the conclusion of a graduation ceremony.

No organization has thus far claimed any responsibility for this attack.

FORMER EXILES' LETTER SEEKS RETURN OF ALL EXILES

PY201620 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1615 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Excerpt] A group of exiles who have been allowed to return to the country and are now living in Chile have appealed to Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa, as a Catholic and a Chilean, to allow those who are still forced to live in exile to return to the country.

This request to the interior minister has been made in a letter to the public published by Jaime Castillo, (Boitois), (Alberto Jerez), (Carlos Bionez), Humberto Villegas, Jaime Estevez, (Estargo de Urrutia), and Rafael Agustin (Cumutio). The letter was also signed by Manuel Bustos, Rene Fuentealba, and Isabel Morel, widow of [word indistinct].

The exiles who have returned to the country still feel as though they were spiritually exiled, (Boitois) stated. She read the letter addressed to minister Jarpa.

[Begin recording] We share the feeling of those who maintain that no Chilean can be deprived of the right to live in his own country under any circumstances. Our happiness at having returned to the country has not been complete, because there are still thousands of Chileans dispersed throughout the world who have been deprived of this right, and this makes us feel as though we are in exile spiritually. We express our solidarity with our fellow citizens who cannot be here with us, with their families, their friends, and with what belongs to them as Chileans. [end recording]

INTERIOR MINISTER MONTANARO ON RETURN OF EXILES

PY192205 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 16 Dec 83 p 11

[Excerpts] [Paraguayan Interior Minister] Sabino Montanaro has noted that, at the special request of Ricardo Barrios Arrenechea, the new governor of the province of Misiones [Argentina], he and the members of the official Paraguayan delegation that were present at the inaugural ceremony of the new Misiones governor agreed to meet the members of the MOPOCO [Colorado Popular Movement] in Posadas. Montanaro said: "I did not carry any proposals or extend any invitation to these persons. They requested a meeting, and we held a meeting with them at the hotel where we were staying."

Interior Minister Monanaro granted an interview to ABC COLOR yesterday afternoon in his office. After excusing himself for being in shirtsleeves, he said that he was interested in holding this interview to explain press reports regarding the issue of exiles, or self-exiles, as he prefers to call them.

Montanaro said that the MOPOCO members had requested a reassertion or an explanation of his statements and of a statement made by President Alfredo Stroessner, which had been published in the press, about the guarantees offered to those exiles who want to return to the country.

Montanaro said: "We have always said that those fellow Paraguayans who are exiled, or self-exiled, can return to the country whenever they want, but that they must do so on an individual basis, not as a committee, as members of a government junta, or as representatives of party authorities."

He added that MOPOCO members were planning to enter the country en masse, with the intention of holding a meeting to discuss matters with Colorado Party or government authorities. "But this cannot be allowed, since it is neither prudent nor legal for us to allow them to hold this meeting. They do not represent anyone in Paraguay, since they have been outside the country. However, if they were in Paraguay, and requested a meeting through party precincts with the Colorado Party Board president or with any member of the party board, no one would deny such a request."

The interior minister said: "But they insist on arriving in the country as a group representing a party board, central committee, or organization that does not and cannot exist, legally or otherwise. We expressed our position, and they agreed, in principle, with Dr Lovera's position that it would be humiliating to request permission to return to the country since there is no need to do this, etc."

After reasserting that he did not go to Posadas to invite MOPOCO members to return to the country, and that he merely met with them, as he would meet with anyone who was interested in talking to him, the interior minister said he has held meetings in Asuncion with other MOPOCO members, including Osvaldo Chaves, and Waldino Ramon Lovera, "who I asked to explain why they didn't stay in the country. Lovera, in particular, said that he would think about it, but that he is already established in Argentina, that he is working, and that everything is going well for him, etc."

Montanaro also noted that the government is not involved in a process to achieve a political opening "or in a process to modify the prevailing political system, since we continue to maintain the same position regarding our adversaries.

Members of the opposition are granted the proper authorization and guarantees to allow them to work in the country. The authorizations do not imply the enforcement of restrictions; they are, rather, requirements to guarantee their safety."

Minister Montanaro stated: "We demand respect. We shall respect them in the same measure that they respect us." During the interview, the interior minister also referred to the various Liberal parties and to Senator Enzo A. Doldan who, he said, is the most aggressive member of the opposition. Regarding Doldan, the minister said that when the senator is asked what he will do if he attains power, Doldan merely states that he will do the same as General Stroessner. The minister said: "Let us hope he is as patriotic as President Stroessner," but he also wondered, aloud: "What kind of opposition is this?"

Asked again if all members of the opposition in exile, even Mendez Fleytas and his followers, would be allowed to return, Montanaro said: "They are divided into the MOPOCO, the Colorado Party board in exile, and the resistance movement. All of them can return, but one at a time, with the exception of Laino and Resck; they, despite anything Mrs Laino may say, are subversives.

He added: "By means of the acts they were engaging in at universities, in other learning centers, and in alleged sociological research centers, they were promoting a subversive atmosphere in the country, and we will not tolerate this. We shall uphold the Constitution and safeguard the law and order prevailing in the country."

Regarding the possiblity of enforcing an amnesty law, the interior minister said that there is no need for it. He added: "There is no need to talk about an amnesty law, since even those who were expelled from the Colorado Party are allowed to return, but one at a time, not as a group. But they will not come. Dr Faustino Centurion told me: "Sir, I am working until 0200; I have a lot of work, I own two hospitals." But I hope they return. As a matter of fact, they have been allowed to return whenever they request the proper authorization to do so -- take, for example, Valentin Ortigoza Duarte, Gonzalez Casabianca, Osvaldo Chavez."

Regarding the proposal made by Waldino Ramon Lovera regarding the lifting of the state of siege, the repeal of law, No 209, and other laws, Interior Minister Montanaro noted that "it is up to the government and to congress to make this decision." Regarding the state of siege, he gueried: "Whom does it hurt?"

He noted: "You are aware that Alcibiades Gonzalez Delvalle is person who has been arrested under the state of siege law. But he has been released. The other person arrested under this law is Escolastico Ovando, who has served a sentence for killing Corporal Benitez. This sentence has been extended within the framework of the state of siege because we believe he is a dangerous element in society."

Asked what guarantees are offered to exiles to carry out political activity in the country if they decide to return, the interior minister said: "they can carry out all the political activity they want through a party precinct, or a party organization or party center, but they must fulfill the requirements. They will be listened to at a party precinct. But he warned that they should not expect to be appointed members of the Colorado Party board, "since this is within the competence of the party convention." About the possibility of being nominated to party board postions, Montanaro said that "if the party convention votes for them, they will have the right to hold a party position. We do not violate the laws."

Asked why Laino and Resck have not been prosecuted if there is evidence of their alleged subversive activities, rather than expelling them from the country, Montanaro said: "You are aware how benign our laws are. We would have to accuse them of a crime that is specifically stated in the penal code and the laws for defense of peace and democracy."

He added: "We believed it was more prudent to send them out of the country so that they would be able to learn about the real situation, the kind of democracy experienced by Argentina, before Alfonsin's assumption of power, Uruguay, Chile, and even Brazil, places where there are death squads, strikes every week, work stoppages that hinder the country's activities. We thought it would be better for them to be outside the country so that they would not adversely affect the peace and order the country is experiencing."

He noted that "for the time being, this government decision is not yet definitive. But I am not the government; I merely implement the measures that are adopted by the executive branch, and I comply with them."

Regarding a response issued by the Paraguayan Episcopate Conference to a note issued by the National Accord [opposition coalition] in which it stated that the church may act as a mediator to achieve the unity of Paraguayans, the interior minister said that "we believe that whenever the constituted authority is respected, that is a good idea. We have never avoided holding a dialogue; they have refused to participate in the presidential elections despite the fact that the Constitution explicitly prohibits this. But they should first arrive at an agreement among themselves about who will represent them in this dialogue, because one day it is Burgos, the next day Laino, the next Doldan, the next Celauro, and the next the Geniolito Group [Liberal Party faction].

Montanaro said that they must first settle their differences among themselves, and then "they should approach congress and the municipal halls; we do not reject any kind of mediation. The Interior Ministry's doors and those of Government House are always open to anyone who requests a meeting to discuss anything."

The interior minister noted that "among them we must include Archbishop Ismael Rolon, who is a member of the Council of State. Archbishop Rolon was sworn in his post, but he never assumed his duties due to political reasons. He could have been the church's representative in the Council of State. Furthermore, those interested politicians should register themselves and go to the Electoral Court and Congress. This is how we can achieve unity. We are at ease, since we have worked to ensure that the country may live in peace, and freedom, and so that it may achieve development."

WAVE OF 'TERRORIST' ACTIONS HITS COUNTRY

PY210029 [Editorial report] Lima's Spanish language daily EL COMERCIO on 6 December 1983 on page A 9 reports that at "1100 on 5 December a group of 30 terrorists raided the town of Quinua in Huamanga Province" when "hundreds of peasants were participating in the town's weekly fair." During their 15-minute stay in the town, "the terrorists climbed the church's steeple, shouted slogans against the government and the democratic system, and fired shots to scare the peasants. The group then left Quinua for the northesastern part of the country, probably the Tambo region. A detachment of local police and one from Ayacucho followed the criminals, but by 1700 there was no news concerning the search."

EL COMERCIO goes on to report that "eight terrorists were killed during a clash with joint police forces in Anexo de Maya, located 3 km from the capital of Tambo district in La Mar Province." The terrorist group "raided Anexo de Maya and hurled dynamite charges. The clash occurred when the terrorists were about to rob some homes. Although the identities of the dead terrorists are not known, it has been reported that three of them were women."

EL COMERCIO on 7 December 1983 on page A 12 reports that "16 individuals involved in terrorist actions in Arequipa and Moquegua Departments were sentenced by the Eighth Correctional Court yesterday to prison terms ranging from 2 to 6 years. Felix Jose Arce Apaza, considered to be one of the leaders of the Shining Path group, received a 6-year prison term, while Nery Chavez Diaz, regional leader of Shining Path in Arequipa, Fermin Quispe Lipa, Inocencio Anco Anco, and Walter Florencio Salas Tapia received 5-year prison terms. At the same time, Manuel Delgado Antoche, Jesus Lipa Flores, Walter Montalvo Chavez, Jorge Mamani Romero, Angel Pedro Flores Calderon, and Narcico Chaves Araujo were convicted and sentenced to 4-year prison terms, and Antonio Anco Ramirez, Pedro Alejandro Sierra, and Luis Paredes Calcina were sentenced to 2-year prison terms.

On 7 December on page A 1 EL COMERCIO reports that "three Civil Guards died and three others were injured during a terrorist ambush in the locality of Andamarca on Sunday. The police patrol was traveling from Cabana to Puquio on a special mission." The Civil Guard reported that "Captain Gustavo Duffaut Takata, Corporal Romualdo Martinez Saavedra, and Blas Lira Martinez died" in the ambush.

EL COMERCIO also quotes the Civil Guard as reporting that "a group of approximately 150 subversives attacked the police station of Cabana on Monday at 0100, but the attack was repelled by Civil Guard personnel."

Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish on 11 December on page 5 quotes Lieutenant Colonel Mario Canales, commander of the 28th Civil Guard command of Pasco, as reporting that "11 alleged terrorists were captured during antisubversive operations carried out by the Civil Guard in Daniel Alcides Carrion Province and in Cerro de Pasco."

Lt Col Canales also reported that "eight terrorists were captured during operations in the localities of Chiuche, Yanacocha, Quipipata, and Yanahuanca. Three of the terrorists were identified as Eusebio Osorio Bonilla, 51; Marcelino Lazo Robles, 34; and Gregorio Lazo Robles, 40." At the same time, "Felix Cueva Pada, 41, who is a political leader of Shining Path, was captured in the district of Paucar in Daniel Carrion Province." EL COMERCIO concludes by reporting that "Raul Delgado Palacios, 25, and Alejandro Espinoza were captured by the Civil Guard in Cerro de Pasco."

50 Die in Huancavelica Clash

PY200138 Paris AFP in Spanish 1559 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] Lima, 16 Dec (AFP) -- More than 50 guerrillas and peasants have died in clashes with Peruvian Army and Civil Guard forces in the towns of Manyacc and Occo, Huancavelica Province, some 522 km southeast of Lima, police sources there have reported.

According to unconfirmed reports, on 9 December two Peruvian Air Force planes bombed Manyacc and Occo, which were overrun with terrorists. Following the air attack, combined Army and Civil Guard forces clashed with groups of armed subversives who were trying to flee to the hills, resulting in a fierce battle ending in 50 deaths.

Several peasants who could not be evacuated from the area died during the clashes, the spokesman said. He added that the Army and the Civil Guard forces sustained several wounded, but failed to give figures.

In Tambo, La Mar Province, Ayacucho Department, a Shining Path group shot a poor woman who was working for the police.

Police have reported that in several remote towns in the provinces of Cangallo, Huanta, La Mar, and Victor Fajardo, Ayacucho Department, many peasants either leave their land or stop growing any crops since they are being threatened with death by Shining Path forces seeking to cause food shortages in the area.

PIP General Murdered

PY202341 Paris AFP in Spanish 1954 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Lima, 20 Dec (AFP) -- Interior Minister Luis Percovich announced today that General Carlos Herrera, director of the Center of Higher Studies of the Peruvian Investigative Police (PIP), was murdered by common criminals in Lima early this morning.

He explained that the general was attacked by four individuals while he was getting out of his automobile to visit a friend in the heavily populated district of Brena, on the outskirts of Lima, and that he tried to defend himself by hiding behind his car and firing his gun.

He was then shot by his attackers, with one bullet which hit him in the forehead, killing him instantly. The attackers escaped, but apparently one of them was wounded.

The minister added that the crime is being investigated by the PIP Homicide Division; therefore, the fear that Gen Herrera was the victim of Shining Path terrorists was dispelled.

Havana Reports General's Murder

PA201709 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] General Carlos Herrera, director of the Center of Higher Studies of the Peruvian Investigative Police, was killed early this morning in the Brena district in Lima, Peru.

The action was perpetrated by five individuals, four wearing Civil Guard uniforms.

SHINING PATH REQUESTS TRUCE, CEASES FIGHTING

PY201356 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 1245 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] The Shining Path terrorist group has requested a 2-year truce. It has also announced that it will cease fighting during this 2-year period. White flags with the hammer and the sickle and posters announcing this decision have been seen in the Huanta, San Miguel, and Ayacucho provinces. However, this decision has not been confirmed by the authorities of the emergency zone political-military command. The following is a relay from our correspondent (Mario Cueto Cardenas):

[Begin relay] This is a relay from Ayacucho: General (Adrian Guaman Centeno), the new political-military chief of National Security Subarea E, which has been in a state of emergency and which encompasses six provinces of Ayacucho Department and other provinces of Huancavelica and Abancai Departments, arrived yesterday in Ayacucho.

General (Guaman Centeno) will assume his duties at the end of December. He replaces General (Clemente Noel Moral) with whom he will inspect the area to get acquainted with the situation in the area and the actions taken against subversion.

However, it seems that the new political-military chief will have to deal with a new situation. Numerous travelers from the Huanta and San Miguel provinces have reported that in the last few days white flags with the hammer and the sickle have been seen at strategic points, adding that some of these flags were placed beside posters that read: 2-year truce; peasants, do not abandon your lands; we withdraw for 2 years.

Nevertheless, neither Shining Path nor the political-military command have confirmed or denied these reports. [end relay]

President Reacts to Truce Offer

PY210221 Paris AFP in Spanish 2056 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Lima, 20 Dec (AFP) -- Today President Fernando Belaunde reacted positively to the Shining Path truce offer to suspend attacks and guerrilla operations that it has been staging in Ayacucho, Huancavelica, and Apurimac to the southeast of Lima.

Interior Minister Luis Percovich also reacted positively, but as a condition for accepting the offer, he stated that the truce should have no time limit and that the terrorists should abide by the law now that elections are the open door to power.

The chief of state and the interior minister responded in this way to reports that white flags bearing the hammer and the sickle with the inscription "truce for 2 years; peasants do not abandon your land" had appeared in Ayacuchana de Huanta yesterday.

The Ayacucho Political Military Commander General Clemente Noel, who in a few more days will be replaced by General Adrian Huaman, has nothing to report on the matter, but Minister Percovich said that intelligence reports agree with the press reports.

In a speech delivered at noon today at the closing of the school year at the Civil Guard Officers School (uniformed police), President Belaunde said: "If there is a sign of common sense, the government will not be insensitive to it. If there is a gesture of common sense and peace, the government certainly will not be insensitive to that gesture. We want to reestablish peace and solidarity."

After indicating that he would like to see the Civil Guards devote themselves to the country's development and the protection of the citizenry, the president condemned the dirty war brought against him from abroad during his two tenures.

Finally, Belaunde paid tribute to the 57 members of the Civil Guard who fell to terrorist violence and to the 127 of its members who have been injured, by saying that "the institution has thus paid a high price in blood for foreign ideological intervention."

For his part, Minister Percovich said that if the truce has been proposed in earnest, it has to be considered, although the government cannot accept a truce, but rather a permanent peace, because elections are the open door to power in the Peruvian democracy.

Percovich added that Peru longs for peace and tranquillity, and that if the truce proposal should be confirmed, there should be no insurmountable obstacle to consolidate a common will and have permanent peace. He finally said that the truce offer has not been confirmed, but that reports from intelligence services agree with press reports from Ayacucho.

HAVANA CITES DEMANDS REGARDING MISSING PERSONS

PA162002 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] The Peasants Confederation of Peru [CCP] has demanded amnesty for peasants and students accused of subversion, and has demanded that the authorities report on the whereabouts of persons missing in the Ayacucho region.

The CCP claims that among the missing persons are (Julio Orozco), the CCP secretary in the Apurima River Valley, and (Cristino Garcia), president of the Agrarian League.

The journalists association has announced that it will sponsor a campaign to demand an explanation for the murder of eight journalists in Uchuraccay, Ayacucho Department, in January of this year.

GOVERNMENT CLOSES RADIO FOR INDEFINITE PERIOD

PY201737 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0258 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 19 Dec (EFE) -- Tonight Uruguayan President Gregorio Alvarez approved and confirmed the "preventive suspension" of CX-30 La Radio broadcasts and ordered a complete administrative investigation.

The decree, signed by the president and the interior and defense ministers, notes that last Saturday La Radio carried broadcasts of political speeches that "promoted public disorders."

The government decree adds that the Interior Ministry ordered the closure of La Radio as "a preventive measure."

President Alvarez approved the enforcement of this measure for an undetermined period of time and entrusted the case to the National Telecommunications Administration that controls radio and television broadcasts.

Station Director's Protest

PA202026 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Herman Araujo, director of the Uruguayan station CX-30 La Radio has begun a hunger strike, protesting the closure of this station by the government of General Gregorio Alvarez. The station was ordered to close last Saturday while broadcasting live the Uruguayan Blanco Party's convention, in which opposition leader Nilson Ferreira Aldunate was proclaimed presidential candidate.

The Inter-American Radio Broadcast Association has sent a message to Gen Gregorio Alvarez asking him to legalize the closure of the censored station.

OPPOSITION PARTIES SIGN UNIFICATION PACT

PA181550 Panama City YA in Spanish 17 Dec 83 pp 16, 12

[Text] The absolute unity of the democratic opposition was sealed on Wednesday, 14 December, when Dr Arnulfo Arias of the Authentic Panamenist Party, Cesar Arrocha of the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement, Arnulfo Escalona of the Authentic Liberal Party, and Ricardo Arias Calderon of the Christian Democratic Party signed a historic pact of political unification.

As this newspaper reported in Tuesday's issue, efforts to create the Democratic Opposition Union [Unidad Opositora Democratica] had grown more intense near the end of last week, when drafts of manifestos began to circulate for the consideration of leaders of the various opposition political parties.

The pact for unity of the democratic opposition states that candidates for president, vice president, legislators, corregimiento representatives, and mayors will be selected by common agreement among all parties that are included in this patriotic effort.

Other opposition parties and parties that are in the process of formation are expected to join in the next few hours, thus sealing the unification of the democratic opposition for the 1984 elections.

The text of the pact is as follows:

THE DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION UNION INFORMS THE PANAMANIAN PEOPLE THAT: [boldface as published]

The opposition democratic political parties that sign this pact stress their firm determination to continue to work unswervingly to restore a government system that is based on the healthiest democratic principles, with the people's will as the sole source of power, to the exclusion of all others. The pillars of a democratic and representative government, a government by the people and for the people, have been destroyed in 15 years of dictatorship.

From the rubble that has been left of our fatherland we will build a second republic, to ensure peace, tranquillity, and well-being for the members of our society. As the year 1983 comes to an end and we approach the year of popular elections, we reaffirm our faith in democratic principles and in an overwhelming victory by the Panamanian people, which will put an end to the current regime and permit the establishment of a democratic, representative government, capable of resolving the very grave problems that were created by the current misgovernment and to eradicate larceny and corruption.

With these objectives in mind, we will proceed to organize the Democratic Opposition Union as a political body by the end of the year, and within this union, in the most generous, unselfish, and patriotic manner, based on common agreement and inspired only by our love for our fatherland, we will announce the list of our candidates who will participate in the upcoming May elections for corregimiento representatives, mayors, legislators, first and second vice presidents, and the president of all Panamanians.

Authentic Panamenist Party
14 December 1983
Cesar Arrocha Graell, Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement
Arnulfo Escalona, Authentic Liberal Party
Arnulfo Arias Madrid, Authentic Panamenist Party
Ricardo Arias Calderon, Christian Democratic Party

COSTA RICA

MONGE SAYS IMF MEASURES COULD DESTABILIZE COUNTRY

PA201521 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] President Luis Alberto Monge, expressing his concern about certain rigid attitudes of the IMF, has declared that IMF demands are contributing to destabilizing the country. He noted that, after extremely serious sacrifices, Costa Rica had complied with all its commitments to the IMF and cannot now be accused of having failed to do so.

President Monge added that the IMF, exhibiting strange behavior, has refused to accept promises from Costa Rica. He admitted that its experiences with the past administration could make the IMF somewhat wary. The present administration, however, has met every commitment; therefore it is disconcerting that the IMF should now doubt our promises and adopt excessively drastic measures and decisions.

The Costa Rican chief of state observed that there are several means to destabilize a democratic government, such as provoking strikes, as intended by the communists. During a meeting with the press, Monge said that escalated strikes, which force the government to quickly adopt extremely severe measures affecting the popular sectors, often make governments feel destabilized through the justified protest of those sectors affected.

Monge quickly affirmed that IMF behavior and demands would seem to indicate that efforts are being made to destabilize the government. We promised to meet our commitments for the past year and we have done so. Now we are asking the IMF to allow us to comply with the new commitments through a number of compromises, but the fund now wants immediate compliance, the president said, showing his dissatisfaction with the IMF.

The Costa Rican president said that the real problem is that Costa Rica cannot leave the IMF. Obviously upset, the chief of state said that he felt quite uncomfortable about the situation because he could not understand why the IMF does not realize it is adopting a dogmatic, orthodox position which threatens to destabilize Costa Rican democracy.

Finally, Monge emphasized that the country is facing a difficult situation because Costa Rica cannot leave the IMF. He noted the consequences affecting the country as a result of the past administration's decision not to comply with its commitments with the IMF. Costa Rica was totally isolated from the international economic community as a result of that decision, he concluded.

HAITIAN TERRORIST CAMP TRAINING UNCONFIRMED

PA171403 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 6 Dec 83 p 10-A

[Text] Officials at the Public Security Ministry have no evidence as yet of the presence of a group of Haitian terrorists who are undergoing clandestine training in Costa Rica in order to carry out destabilizing actions against the Haitian Government.

Consulate officials reported their presence to Costa Rican employees in Miami. However, none of this has been confirmed so far, Public Security Minister Angel Edmundo Solano said yesterday.

According to Solano, the Intelligence and Security Directorate (DIS) has no proof that such activity is taking place in Costa Rica. We were unable to obtain statements from DIS chiefs Carlos Monge and Rodolfo Jimenez.

Meanwhile, Deputy Government Minister Enrique Chacon said that "there is some truth to that." He did not expound on the topic because it is another ministry's responsibility, but in his opinion the issue is not receiving the attention it should.

The extremists are reportedly training on an unspecified farm on the Atlantic coast. If it has been located by the DIS, its location has not yet been made public.

Diplomatic sources abroad said that Haitian authorities reported the training a month ago and that the Haitian Government has demanded an explanation on the issue from the Costa Rican Government. Questioned Security Ministry officials, however, said that nothing to that effect has been confirmed. Asked if she had any knowledge of the matter, Immigration General Director Mayela Morales said: "That's all we need, Haitian terrorists in Costa Rica."

BRIEFS

GASOLINE, UTILITY PRICE INCREASE -- At a news conference held this afternoon, Costa Rican Finance Minister Federico Vargas Peralta announced that the price of gasoline will increase by 25 percent, effective January 1984. He noted that 1 liter of gasoline, which now costs 24 colones, will increase to 28.8 colones, while diesel and other fuels will retain the same prices. He added that as part of an emergency plan to balance the public finances, water charges will increase by 30 percent, electricity charges by 10 percent, and phone charges by 50 percent. He added that railroad tickets will also increase by 10 percent. [Summary] [San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Dec 83 PA]

NATIONALIZATION OF GOLD -- In their first debate, a majority of deputies of the Legislative Assembly yesterday approved a law that regulates the production and export of gold, which is left exclusively in the hands of the Central Bank. The nationalization of the purchase and export of gold produced locally will be accompanied by a series of taxes on gold exploiters and producers for the benefit of the treasury and that of the municipalities where the gold is produced. [Summary] [San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 7 Dec 83 p 2 PA]

EL SALVADOR

NEW CONSTITUTION ENACTED; D'AUBUISSON RESIGNS

PA202247 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Excerpts] This morning, as scheduled, Salvadoran lawmakers opened the solemn session to enact our country's political constitution, which went into effect immediately. The Constituent Assembly then became a legislative assembly.

Constituent Assembly President Major Roberto D'Aubuisson Arrieta made the following speech before the session's adjournment:

[Begin recording] We are currently engaged in a campaign to elect the president and vice president of the Republic through the direct vote of our citizens. This is the second step in the process toward the strengthening of the democratic process. It is therefore an excellent opportunity to make a polite invitation to the leaders of the political parties who will go to the polls on 25 March to make every possible effort to allow the electoral campaign to unfold in a lofty civic atmosphere and to let the people express their sovereign will with the utmost freedom.

We must struggle for this process to be clean and for its results to be respected here and abroad, because we will not allow either fraud or imposition to change or debase the people's verdict.

Every Salvadoran who truly loves his homeland and firmly believes in representative democracy has the duty and inalienable right to participate actively in the coming election, supporting the party and the candidate he thinks best and who offers the best political option.

Despite ideological considerations, our nation's interests have always prevailed over partisan interests. As I promised earlier this year, I am honoring my pledge to resign from my position of president of this august Constituent Assembly following the completion of the constitution, that is, as of this moment. I now make this resignation effective and express my desire to become one of the distinguished members of the legislative branch so as to be able to devote myself to the activities of the party I represent and to participate in the coming electoral contest.

May God illuminate the path to salvation of our homeland and give us the spiritual fortitude to overcome all adversity and fulfill our historical destiny. [end recording]

D'AUBUISSON ACCEPTS NOMINATION, EYES NATIONALISTS

PA202019 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Marcos Aleman report]

[Text] During a rally yesterday morning near the International Fairgrounds, the members of ARENA [Nationalist Republic Alliance] nominated Major Roberto D'Aubuisson Arrieta as their presidential candidate for the March 1984 elections.

In his speech following the nomination, Maj D'Aubuisson said, among other things: Nationalist brothers, our government will not allow any foreign meddling in our country's internal affairs. We will not tolerate abuses of our sovereignty or national dignity or any trampling on the sacred name of El Salvador.

He added: We will demand respect for the dignity and prestige of the Salvadoran people at international organizations and forums. To do so, we will establish a new diplomatic structure and will totally reorganize our foreign service so that every Salvadoran diplomatic representative will project and defend the sacred values of our homeland. We intend to respect both big and small nations, and will demand equal respect for our country through the new diplomatic approach to be established by the government over which I will preside. The votes of true Salvadorans will put an end to intervention in matters which are the exclusive concern of the Salvadoran people.

In a nutshell, Maj D'Aubuisson promised the crowd at the International Fairgrounds that no meddling by foreign governments would be allowed when he governs El Salvador. Maj D'Aubuisson said:

[Begin recording] We have never believed and will never believe that the path of violence will bring a solution to our nation's problems. Therefore, we strongly reject violence, kidnappings, murder, blackmail, and all forms of terrorism. We have always insisted that the only legitimate weapon we Salvadorans have for achieving pacification and economic recovery is free suffrage by our citizens. [applause, shouts]

For just reasons, we condemn violence and stand against any group trying to gain power via terrorism, regardless of its origin.

We condemn and repudiate the violence that has been unleashed to destroy our fatherland. We condemn the terrorism waged by the FMLN and the death squads because, no matter where the violence originates, those responsible for it must understand, once and for all, that through their attitudes they are not only destroying useful Salvadoran lives, but are mercilessly destroying the incipient democratic process which we, the true patriots, have initiated in our country. [applause, shouts]

Regarding the death squads, I wish to clarify some points. [Words indistinct] because as a high-ranking military officer fully respected by nationalists said during an official Air Force ceremony: The death squads may be a well-planned plot by the left wing to create problems for the government. [applause, shouts] If this is their objective, they are fulfilling it, because they have confused international opinion. If these groups are not composed of left-wing elements, then those responsible are misled, because by no means are these actions favorable to our homeland, much less to the Armed Forces. I endorse this interpretation because I agree. [appaluse, shouts]

However, this does not mean that elements alien to our homeland can doubt the operational capacity of our Armed Forces. [applause and shouts of "Long Live the Armed Forces!"] The action adopted by those who still have the mentality of the ominous U.S. President Carter seeks to continue compromising our dignity and undermining the prestige and morale of our Armed Forces. [shouts]

Just as these men once claimed that the FMLN -- who are the assassins in our homeland -- endangered our existence, I want to tell those men at the U.S. Embassy that the attitude they have adopted to help the officers of our Armed Forces also endangers their relatives, because the FMLN really exists in our homeland and they are (?vile) assassins. [shouts]

I also want to tell all the companeros, chiefs, and officers who are the real sons of El Salvador and who have been unjustly labeled by the [word indistinct] press, like THE NEW YORK TIMES and THE WASHINGTON POST, words repeated by the U.S. ambassador, that we believe in them. They have joined our struggle, and it is an honest struggle for our homeland. May God bless them and their relatives. We, the nationalists, are willing to always support them in the just struggle they have begun to save our homeland and protect our people. [shouts and applause] [end recording]

ECONOMY MINISTER UNEXPECTEDLY RESIGNS POST

PA210404 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0348 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] San Salvador, 20 Dec (LATIN) -- Salvadoran Economy Minister Jose Manuel Pacas resigned today, according to a presidential spokesman. The Economy Ministry will be temporarily assumed by President Magana, said the spokesman, without explaining the reasons for Pacas' resignation.

FMLN-FDR'S UNGO SAYS MAGANA REJECTS DIALOGUE

PA200437 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] A news dispatch datelined Bogota, Colombia, states that Salvadoran leftist leader Guillermo Manuel Ungo told CARACOL Network in a telephone interview from Panama City that President Alvaro Magana has ruined all chances for initiating a Salvadoran dialogue between the various forces because Magana has threatened to arrest any guerrilla delegates who come out of hiding. The political leader said that Magana rejected the dialogue that might have been held at the Colombian Embassy in El Salvador.

COFFEE HARVEST 'PARALYZED' DUE TO CLASHES

PA160142 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Most of the coffee crop in Jucuapa and Chinameca is about to go to waste, and coffee is falling to the ground by itself on some farms because the harvest is paralyzed. This paralyzation is due to people preferring not to risk their lives, because guerrillas and soldiers are in this area and clashes frequently occur.

The civilian population has reported that early today rebels and government troops fought near Jucuapa, on the road to Santa Elena, where three camps were dismantled by the Armed Forces.

GOVERNMENT, EXTREMISTS CLASH IN CACAHUATIQUE

PA170246 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 16 Dec 83 pp 2, 77

[Excerpt] Military sources reported yesterday that a government combat unit inflicted more than 100 casualties on the extremists during an attempt to dislodge them from Cerro Cacahuatique, San Miguel Department.

The combat unit, identified as the Cazadores Battalion, fought heavy battles against FMLN fighters in several areas of Cerro Cacahuatique. The heaviest fighting was reported at the San Pedro farm, El Volcan canton and hamlet, Delicias de Concepcion jurisdiction. The report adds that the soldiers on Cerro Cacahuatique counted 37 dead terrorists and recovered 1 FAL, 1 M-16, 1 G-3 rifle. A large amount of ammunition was also recovered.

It was also learned that heavy fighting was reported around the San Carlos farm and coffee processing plant near Yoloaiquin. It was reported that the rebels withdrew, taking their dead and wounded with them. They also carried with them rifles and cartridges that had been abandoned under bushes, in ravines, and so forth.

The report added that the terrorists had abandoned their 37 dead because they could not carry them. They had already suffered too many casualties and did not have enough men to remove the bodies.

On Wednesday and Thursday soldiers stationed in the area and units of the specialized counterinsurgency battalions -- Ramon Bellloso, Atlacatl, General Jose Manuel Arce -- arrived on Cerro Cacahuatique from various areas in an attempt to expel the rebels holding the hill.

It was learned unofficially -- no confirmation was possible -- that the clandestine groups had once again occupied Ciudad Barrios. The rebels were still holding this city of the San Miguel Department yesterday. The unofficial sources added that if this information proved true, then a clean-up operation throughout the area would follow. Military experts have said that these terrorist groups could be the same ones who were expelled from Jucuapa, Santiago de Maria, San Jorge, and so forth a few days ago.

The sources [not further identified] added that the Treasury Police had suffered three dead and eight wounded. The dead were identified as Jorge Alberto Luna Monte, Eduardo Cabezas Barahona, and a student, Ricardo Ubaldo Artiga Barrera.

The fight to recover Cerro Cacahuatique began on Monday. It has been reported that the fighting would end yesterday.

COPREFA on Fighting

PA172345 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 17 Dec 83 pp 4, 42

[Text] According to Colonel Ricardo Aristides Cienfuegos, head of the Armed Forces Press Committee [COPREFA], fighting on Cerro Cacahuatique, Morazan Department, has ended, with unfavorable results for the terrorists.

"Approximately 20 or 23 soldiers were killed and a few were wounded," the officer noted. He added: "The guerrillas, despite their numerical superiority, got the worst of it."

Infantry units retook Cerro Cacahuatique at 1800 on Thursday, Col Cienfuegos explained. He stressed that he could not provide any figures on the number killed because he doesn't want to exaggerate or give inaccurate figures. He explained that at the end of the operation to search for and pursue extremists in areas near Cerro Cacahuatique, COPREFA will issue an official and complete report on the course of events.

Residents of various towns and rural sectors through which the FMLN passed on Thursday, after the Army recovered Cacahuatique, have told Ciudad Barrios military authorities that they saw several trucks loaded with the bodies of extremists who fell in the Army counteroffensive. However, Armed Forces spokesmen have not released any figures on the number of casualties inflicted on the terrorists.

FMLN Leader Views Action

PA161801 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Interview with Commander Jorge Melendez, commander of the FMLN Francisco Sanchez Eastern Front, "in the command post of the Northern Group of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade on Cerro Cacahuatique"; no date given -- live or recorded]

[Summary from poor reception] [Unidentified reporter] "Commander Jorge Melendez, after the success of the fighting against the Tecana Battalion on Cerro Cacahuatique, what is the situation of the reinforcements sent by Colonel Domingo Monterrosa?"

[Melendez] Today we have maintained a siege on the paratroopers in (?Ciudad Barrios). We have inflicted several casualties on them. We have attacked the troops supposedly coming as reinforcements, who have not been able to advance more than 500 meters in 2 days, even though they have air support. "The paratroopers have suffered many casualties. We note an attitude of fear and confusion among them." "The fighting with those troops lasted all day yesterday and today. As I said earlier, they haven't been able to advance more than 500 meters."

[Reporter] "What is the military importance of this operation on Cerro Cacahuatique by the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade?"

[Melendez] "The mission of the Tecana Battalion on Cerro Cacahuatique involves many things that determine the military importance of this operation. First of all, it involves the effectiveness of a well-entrenched battalion that [words indistinct] defense system, which includes the troops of San Francisco Gotera with 1,200 men, the (?Manuel Jose Arce) Brigade with 1,200 men, and all the resources that can be sent to Cerro Cacahuatique [words indistinct] which is the country's largest garrison. There are also the troops in Ciudad Barrios, where there are more than 100 National Guardsmen and troops of the 3d Brigade.

"But the total defeat (?of a battalion) and the seizure of that city are not the most important things. The operation has other implications. It means the defeat of one of the counterinsurgency bases in the country that were established in line with the tactics of the North Americans. According to the imperialists, by placing military bases within our zones they are going to stop the advance of the FMLN. They have established similar bases in this way, that is, counterinsurgency bases, on Chichontepec Volcano and on Cerro Cacahuatique in Morazan Department. So far that tactic has shown the dictatorship's total ineffectiveness and incapacity." Our forces have defeated that tactic throughout the country whenever we wanted to, as shown by our campaigns.

[Reporter] How responsible is Colonel Domingo Monterrosa for the defeat on Cerro Cacahuatique?

[Melendez] It is very significant that this operation is takingplace after there have been command changes in the Army, supposedly to appoint the most qualified officers. These include Col Domingo Monterrosa, a well-known archcriminal who replaced Colonel Flores in the command of the 3d Brigade. Monterrosa has suffered a crushing defeat. In addition to suffering the defeat of an entire battalion, a large number of casualities were inflicted on his reinforcements. He has had to move troops from various areas -- the paratroopers, the Belloso Battalion, and the Cazadores Battalion. These reinforcements have been pushed back and have suffered many casualties.

"This clearly proves that the army's problem was not solved with the change in command. The problem is that it is losing the war." The objectives of the Army are contrary to those of the Salvadoran people.

"In conclusion, this military victory is a defeat for the U.S. tactics." It dashes the hopes of the dictatorship and the North Americans in the new commanders. After them, they don't have anyone left. The defeat of entire battalions in fixed and entrenched positions by the FMLN is overwhelming proof of our revolutionary strength." It also shows the absured nature of the electoral plan (?based) on a dictatorship that is on the verge of being defeated, a plan that the United States wants to present as a means for a political solution." It must also be pointed out that the air attacks are not an effective tactic. Monterrosa's desperate use of the Air Force when his reinforcements were unable to advance would not halt our forces. These points summarize the importance of this operation.

Havana Reports Fighting

PA161807 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] The Salvadoran Army has suffered more than 100 dead and many wounded on Cerro Cacahuatique and on El Mirador and La Hacienda, strategic hills located in Morazan and San Miguel Departments. These heights and other nearby areas were taken last Tuesday by the FMLN, which has since repelled several Army attempts to recover them.

Radio Venceremos, the official voice of the FMLN, has also reported that the guerrillas clashed in Morazan with a special Treasury Police force, which suffered 4 dead and 14 wounded as a result.

Guerrila Commander Joaquin Villalobos has reported that the takeover of the military communications center in Cerro Cacahuatique and the occupation of nearby hills represents a very important military victory for the FMLN.

FMLN REPORTS AMBUSH, SABOTAGE OPERATIONS

PA190222 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Excerpts] We have ambushed a patrol of the repressive National Guard on the road from Tecoluca to San Vicente. Our guerrilla squads inflicted three casualties on the enemy during this ambush on the National Guard. This action took place at 0840 yesterday, 17 December, near Km 70, in San Vicente Department.

In addition, on 13 December we engaged forces of the Cavalry Regiment near the turnoff to Los Pozos, on the Pan-American Highway, in San Vicente Department. As a result of this fighting, the Cavalry Regiment suffered (?many) casualties, including a machinegunner.

We left the city of San Vicente and the towns of San Cayetano, Tepetitan, and Guadalupe, all located in San Vicente Department, without electric power on Friday. Our militias sabotaged electric lines at (La Bomba) of (Achichilco), between the Jiboa sugarmill and the city of San Vicente, where the enemy has massed a substantial number of troops. Overcoming repression and terror, our militias also sabotaged electric lines at Km 74 on the road from Tecoluca to San Vicente on 16 December.

HELICOPTERS REPORTEDLY ATTACK TOWNS 17 DEC

PA190241 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] Here are the results of the Yankee government's hypocritical human rights policy against our people:

North American helicopters arrived on 17 December in San Miguel Department to sow death there. The town of Sesori, in San Miguel Department, was strafed by helicopters at noon and at night on 17 December. Six civilians were killed, including three women, one of whom died while nursing a small son. This is the Christmas of death and destruction that Reagan's government is giving to the Salvadoran people.

On that same day, the town of San Luis de la Reina, in San Miguel Department was also strafed from a helicopter, but there are not accurate reports yet on the harm inflicted on the civilian population by the cowardly pilots of the dictatorship's Air Force, who are trained by the North American advisers.

TWO GOVERNMENT AIRCRAFT DAMAGED BY REBELS

PA190330 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] Attention, here is a last-minute report from this Francisco Sanchez Northeastern Front, territory of victories! We are told that in the fighting between troops of the dictatorship and members of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade, our revolutionary fire seriously damaged two aircraft of the genocidal regime.

An O-2 light plane and a UH-1 helicopter that were spying on our positions today in northern San Miguel were hit by our fire.

The O-2 plane was forced to land in San Francisco Gotera, and the helicopter had to land in Ciudad Barrios.

Our forces continue to strike at the dictatorship, wearing out their reinforcements, in this case reinforcements that were sent to recover positions on Cerro Cacahuatique. In these clashes we damaged the dictatorship's two aircraft, an O-2 light plane and a Huey UH-1 helicopter. Our people advance, the enemy retreats! In Cacahuatique we defeated the gringo tactics and the Yankee strategies.

HAVANA REPORTAGE COVERS VIEWS, ACTIVITIES

U.S. Adviser's Trip

PA171622 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] Colonel James Stringham, chief of the U.S. military advisers in El Salvador, has traveled to eastern El Salvador, where strong clashes are taking place between the Army and FMLN guerrillas. U.S. Embassy sources in San Salvador said that Stringham arrived in Ciudad Barrios, near Cacahuatique Hill, to hold urgent meetings with officers in Alvaro Magana's regime.

For the 3d consecutive day the Army has failed to recover the communications center on Cacahuatique Hill, which has been occupied by the Salvadoran rebels since last Tuesday, following a successful operation in which more than 100 of the enemy were killed and 75 were seriously wounded.

The Army has sent its special Ramon Belloso and Jose Manuel Arce Battalions to Cacahuatique and has launched its largest air display since the outset of the civil war over the region.

The FMLN announced over Radio Venceremos yesterday that it has successfully accomplished its objectives on Cacahuatique Hill and that the insurgents will gradually withdraw from the area as a result.

In a statement broadcast over Radio Farabundo Marti, wage increases and the improvement of living conditions for farmworkers were demanded from the owners of cotton farms, as was the withdrawal of troops and armed guards from the areas where cotton is grown.

The FMLN announced that its political organizations and armed units will act to ensure that the demands are complied with. These demands are similar to those issued previously for the benefit of workers at coffee farms.

Pickering Statements

PA192236 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] Thomas Pickering, U.S. ambassador to El Salvador, has admitted that despite U.S. support, the Salvadoran regime has been unable to regain the zones controlled by the guerrillas. In statements to the news media, Pickering said that the Salvadoran Army has not been able to dislodge the rebel groups from the San Vicente region.

U.S. State Department sources have said that an antiguerrilla counteroffensive called the "rural pacification program" was launched 6 months ago, but that it has made no progress because of the troops' low morale and inability to face the Salvadoran revolutionaries.

FMLN's Melendez on 'Victory'

PA181909 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] FMLN Commander Jorge Melendez has told Radio Venceremos, the voice of that guerrilla organization, that the FMLN's victory in occupying the Salvadoran regime's military communications center on Cerro Cacahuatique in Morazan Department is a reflection of the defeat that has been inflicted on U.S. tactics in that Central American country.

The guerrilla leaders said that the rebel forces have improved in quality and that the tyrannic Salvadoran regime's military corps has definitely begun to lose the war.

Melendez noted that FMLN detachments successfully resisted attacks by the best Salvadoran Army battalions, paratroopers, and U.S.-trained troops in the 3 days that the regime's forces tried to recover Cerro Cacahuatique.

After meeting their tactical and strategic objectives on Cerro Cacahuatique the FMLN guerrillas left the area, having inflicted more than 100 dead and 75 wounded on the Army, and having captured 12 prisoners. The FMLN also seized a large amount of war supplies from the regime's forces.

Meanwhile, it has been reported in San Salvador that Salvadoran Economy Minister Jose Manuel Pacas Castro has resigned. Pacas Castro is a member of the right-wing Nationalist Republican Alliance.

FMLN Activities

PA201455 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Radio Venceremos, the FMLN's mouthpiece, has announced that FMLN guerrillas occupied San Jose Las Flores municipality, San Salvador Department. According to the source, the rebels inflicted several casualties on the troops defending the local garrison.

According to the insurgent radio station, other guerrilla columns also attacked and destroyed the San Francisco Sugar Mill facilities in northern San Salvador. The station also reported that the rebels damaged an Army helicopter and light aircraft, which overflew guerrilla positions in northern San Miguel Department on Sunday.

Workers Cited on Land Reform

PA210411 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] The Salvadoran Workers Federation has described as a mockery of the peasants the recent approval by the Constituent Assembly of new restrictions to the already limited agrarian reform that had been applied in the country for a very brief period of time.

According to Article 105 of the new Salvadoran Constitution approved a few days ago by the Assembly, only 2 percent of the tillable lands will be turned over to peasants.

The agrarian reform began to be implemented in El Salvador in 1960, according to an unsuccessful plan conceived in the United States to deprive the guerrilla movement of the peasants' support.

Despite its limitations, the agrarian reform elicited the rejection of Salvadoran rightist sectors, who first managed to paralyze it and have now succeeded in practically eliminating it at the Assembly.

Havana Film Festival Viewed

PA162010 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Statement by Rafael Velasquez, representative abroad of the Salvadoran clandestine Radio Venceremos, in Havana; no date given -- recorded]

[Excerpt] We have been participating since 1981 in the Latin American film festivals that take place in Havana to disseminate information about the advances being made by the Salvadoran revolutionary process and how it has been developing since 1981, when the FMLN carried out a broad military operation.

Every year we bring new material that clarifies the abilities and achievements of our military forces on the various fronts, as well as the integration and mobilization of the Salvadoran people in the tasks of the revolution.

BRIEFS

HONDURAN OFFICERS' VISIT -- Top officers of the Honduran Armed Forces have visited our country for 4 days at the invitation of the Armed Forces Social Welfare Institute [Instituto de Prevision Social de las Fuerzas Armadas -- IPSFA]. The Honduran delegation was comprised of Colonel Diego Arturo Landa Celano, general manager of the Military Welfare Institute [Instituto de Prevision Militar -- IPM]; Gonzalo Rafael Chavez, a lawyer and executive president of the Armed Forces' Bank [Banco de las Fuerzas Armadas -- BANFFAA]; Mario Batres, general manager of Welfare and Insurance, Inc. [Prevision y Seguros, S.A. -- PREVISA]; and Lieutenant Emilio Quinonez of the IPM. The visitors were met at the airport by Colonel Salvador B. Castro Alvarado, IPFSA manager; Lieutenant Jorge Alberto Medina Garay, assistant general manager for administrative matters; and other officials. [Summary] [San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 17 Dec 83 pp 78, 47 PA]

GUATEMALA

TSE TO MAKE NO CHANGES IN ELECTORAL LAW

PA201207 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] The Supreme Electoral Tribunal [TSE], which is responsible for issuing the rules regulating the elections for a Constituent Assembly, today stated that it will make no changes in the current electoral law because it believes the law satisfies Guatemala's democratic requirements. The TSE said the current law will prevent new electoral frauds, while simultaneously establishing an equitable participation responding to the people's will.

In the past few days several committees for the formation of political parties have rejected the Constituent Assembly election bill, alleging that the TSE had ignored some legal issues. Political leaders claim the law is injust and undemocratic. Many groups, such as the National Liberation Movement, have publicly stated that they will not nominate candidates or participate in the subsequent election.

Despite the numerous criticisms of the law, political experts maintain that all the committees for political parties will participate in the upcoming election, stating that their allegations are part of a campaign to raise votes.

Notwithstanding the TSE's refusal to change the proposed law, several committees are already drafting their candidate lists, which will reportedly be released in mid-January 1984.

FUR Wants New Law

PA201423 Guatemala Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] The United Revolutionary Front, FUR, today commented on the current draft bill regulating the upcoming elections for a national Constituent Assembly. The document has already been criticized by several committees for the formation of political parties.

According to FUR, the decree contains several discriminatory articles, such as that banning illiterates from voting, which FUR considers despicable. FUR concludes that the national Constituent Assembly must result from the people's will, for which it is necessary to establish specific laws regulating the electoral process. Summarizing, FUR calls on the Electoral Tribunal to draft another law since the present draft bill ignores the people in many of its articles.

DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR POLITICAL GROUPS' VIEWS

PA202052 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 20 Dec 83 p 8

[Text] The government today extended the deadline for the political committees to present their views on the draft electoral bill, Interior Minister Gustavo Lopez Sandoval announced. The official explained that no fixed deadline will be set; it will simply be a deadline marked by administrative suitability.

"The political groups are very interested in having the constitutional process stepped up in order to be able to begin their activities," the minister said.

Minister Lopez Sandoval was asked whether the government will wait for the parties' views before passing the law. His answer: "It is not that formal. Wait? No. The government requested their opinion, acting broadly and democratically."

The minister added that the government wants to learn the views of the various political sectors even though they have already announced their views in the press. He added that it is important that the members of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal should learn the views of the various political groups so that they may submit to the government a plan for reforming the law.

The official admitted that the political committees have been exerting a rather indirect pressure to make the process swifter. However, he explained, the government is also interested in bringing about a constitutional opening as soon as possible.

Asked whether a delay in the parties' presentation of their views might also delay the government's desire to pass the law on 24 December, he answered that this would be logical. However, he asserted, both the government and the parties are interested in having this take place as soon as possible.

ARMY SPOKESMAN REJECTS ROLE IN NEW MANEUVERS

PA200413 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] Guatemala City, 19 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Guatemala will not participate directly in the Big Pine III military maneuvers to be held this March in Honduras.

Colonel Edgar Djalma Dominguez, chief of public relations for the Army, made the statement to ACAN-EFE today, adding that Guatemala has only two instructors assigned to Honduras. "During the coming year the figure will remain the same. On several occasions my government has denied our purported participation in military maneuvers in Honduras, and in 1984 we will continue the same policy," the Guatemalan official spokesman added.

The colonel stated that Guatemala has only two instructors from the "Kaibilies," elite Army units assigned to the Puerto Castilla base in Honduras.

The officer's statement agreed with previous ones made by Guatemalan Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade that his government had rejected pressure to play a more active role against Nicaragua. "Guatemala has a very independent foreign policy as concerns Central America. We do not wish to be used as an instrument of foreign forces," Andrade stated.

ANDRADE SAYS ARGENTINA TO HELP SOLVE C.A. CRISIS

PA210114 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0047 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Guatemala City, 20 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Guatemalan Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade told ACAN-EFE today that "active participation of Argentina's foreign minister is foreseen in the solution of the Central American crisis." Andrade, who reaffirmed his country's support for the Contadora Group (Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela) "without reservations," did not say what form Argentine intervention would take.

The Guatemalan foreign minister recently accompanied chief of state General Oscar Mejia Victores to the inauguration of Raul Alfonsin, Argentina's constitutional president.

HAVANA OBSERVES RECENT GUERRILLA ACTIONS

PA201950 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Guerrilla forces of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, URNG, attacked government troops in the municipalities of Taxisco, San Antonio Suchipequez, (Chacacao), and Santo Tomas La Union. Simultaneously, guerrilla commandos occupied San Luis village and part of the road in Dolores municipality, El Peten Department. During various clashes in La Libertad municipality the rebels seized weapons and military equipment from the Guatemalan Army.

Other dispatches note that on 13 December insurgent commandos attacked the Salvadoran Embassy in Guatemala City with grenades.

Meanwhile, in Mexico, a representative of the URNG said that systematic violation of human rights in Guatemala has reached genocidal levels, stressing that repressive actions have increased, especially in Guatemala City.

HONDURAS

PAZ BARNICA ON C.A., CONTADORA, CHANGES

PA201741 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica yesterday commented on statements made recently by Sergio Ramirez, member of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, regarding the return of U.S. Ambassador Richard Stone -- who failed to visit Central America on his last tour. Foreign Secretary Paz Barnica said the following:

[Begin recording] [Paz Barnica] Regarding the cancelled visit of U.S. Ambassador Richard Stone to Central America, various reasons have been expressed. Several reports have been received from Colombia saying he did not visit Central America because he had to travel directly to Washington for consultations and that President Belisario Betancur asked him to tell President Reagan of the Contadora Group countries' wish for the U.S. Government to adopt a more positive attitude concerning a permament peace for Central America.

I have read the international cable news report you refer to. The person who made these statements is Doctor Sergio Ramirez, member of the Nicaraguan Junta. He said that Ambassador Stone cancelled his trip to Central America due to a lack of peace proposals from the U.S. and Honduran Governments.

I cannot speak for the U.S. Government, that is up to them. But regarding Honduras, I can say that what Ramirez asserted is false. President Suazo Cordova's government was the first to issue a peace proposal for Central America, on 23 March 1982. Within Contadora Group contacts, Honduras has made specific peace proposals, both individually and jointly with Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Guatemala. In July we presented the permanent bases for a global and regional peace in Central America, which were accepted as an official Contadora document. The Document of Objectives incorporates the Honduran Government's proposals for this peaceful solution.

I believe Doctor Sergio Ramirez' remarks are unrealistic and should be corrected, because this kind of statement only creates mistrust. It is our obligation to help create a climate of detente. Tomorrow we will open an advisory-level meeting here in Tegucigalpa between Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala. We will analyze regional problems and seek to strengthen all efforts favoring a permanent peace. I reiterate to you that our government believes there should be a peaceful solution and we will achieve this peaceful solution in a dignified way, without harming our national interests.

[Unidentified reporter] What about the rumors that Honduras and Nicaragua are secretly negotiating a nonaggression pact to be signed in the near future?

[Paz Barnica] No. Since the government of General Paz Garcia in Honduras, the Nicraguan Government has made proposals for [words indistinct]. For 2 years we have maintained bilateral talks with the Nicaraguan Government. However, under no circumstances has the Honduran Government agreed to sign a bilateral treaty. Our position remains unchanged. We advocate a regional and global solution within the framework of Contadora, which we support.

This is a multilateral forum where we discuss our problems, and we will not [break in transmission] except in the future, through the Contadora Group's mechanisms, within a global and regional context.

[Reporter] How does the Honduran Government term Ramirez' statements?

[Paz Barnica] They are not true. Honduras has issued specific peace proposals such as the one dated 23 March 1982. We have repeatedly made proposals within the framework of Contadora, and the agenda approved in May at Contadora includes the Honduran peace proposal.

The Document of Objectives is based mainly on a specific proposal from Honduras, Costa Rica, Guatemala, and El Salvador called "Bases for Peace in Central America." During the last advisory-level meeting that was held in early December in Panama, it was Honduras' proposal to create working conditions for political, security, social, and economic areas. The proposal to create mechanisms for international supervision and vigilance was presented by the other four Central American countries and accepted as a reference document to be used during the second phase of negotiations within the Contadora framework.

The proposal presented outside the Contadora framework was that of the Nicaraguan Government. We believe that the four democratic countries which comprise Contadora and the Central American foreign ministers will now promote a new meeting for mid-January 1984. Thus, within a multilateral framework and a global and regional context, we will incorporate the 21 points included in the Document of Objectives. Meanwhile, the Central American governments have the primary responsibility for this decision and they must work tenaciously to achieve a regional detente.

[Reporter] Is Nicaragua renewing its campaign of slander against Honduras with such statements?

[Paz Barnica] Yes, because Doctor Ramirez' statements are aimed at discrediting Honduras. He says Honduras has not made specific peace proposals, and this is not true. It is our duty to continue working for peace, with practical actions, as we have done all along.

[Reporter] In view of this misinformation campaign being promoted by Nicaragua, do you consider it necessary to restructure the Honduran diplomatic service?

[Paz Barnica] Each year we evaluate and reorganize the country's foreign policy. We will enter 1984 in a few days, and this is an appropriate occasion to evaluate the country's new strategy. This includes the restructuring of our diplomatic representations abroad [words indistinct] some ambassadors do not [words indistinct] the country's interests. These are isolated cases, but we know they are idle most of the time.

[Reporter] Some of our ambassadors have already presented their resignations?

[Paz Barnica] Yes, many ambassadors have already presented their resignations. We will study these resignations according to the circumstances and the benefit that might be derived from a renewal for the country's interests.

[Reporter] Which of our embassies will be restructured?

[Paz Barnica] [Sentence indistinct] The one in the United States serves the country quite seriously. We have some excellent ambassadors.

The Honduran ambassador at the UN, Dr Roberto Herrera Caceres, is an extremely serious and responsible diplomat. He has an unquestionable history of service to our country. In my opinion, Ambassador Roberto Martinez Ordonez, at the OAS, is also doing his job very well. Also, Ambassador Juan Agurcia is doing an excellent job as Honduran ambassador to the United States. We have good ambassadors in Europe, but we also have some who are not doing their job. We will talk about this in the future. [end recording]

NICARAGUA

BISHOP KIDNAPPED BY COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES

PA210122 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0105 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Managua, 20 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- The Catholic bishop of Bluefields (on Nicaragua's Atlantic coast) has been kidnapped by anti-Sandinists, Radio Sandino in Managua reported tonight. It was learned that Monsignor Salvador Schlaeffer, a U.S. citizen, was kidnappped along with two deacons and a priest whose names have not yet been revealed.

Further on Kidnapping

PA210142 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0115 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Managua, 20 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Monsignor Salvador Schlaeffer, bishop of Bluefields, has been kidnapped on the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua, at a place known as Francia Sirpe.

The bishop, a priest, and two deacons were kidnapped before dawn today by a group of counterrevolutionaries, according to a telegram received by the Order of Capuchins, to which Msgr Schlaeffer belongs. The telegram was sent by Father Camilo, parish priest of Puerto Cabezas.

Apparently the counterrevolutionary group has all of Francia Sirpe under its control. This is one of the locations of Miskito Indian settlements.

Communique Blames U.S., Honduras

PA210245 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0200 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Communique issued by the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry in Managua on 20 December 1983]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry hereby informs the public about the following serious incident: At dawn today, 20 December, groups of Somozist mercenaries coming from Honduran territory -- who have increased their criminal activities in the past few days following the instructions and guidance of the CIA -- attacked the town of Francia Sirpe, in a remote area of the northern Atlantic part of Nicaragua. This town is located some 20 km southwest of the border in the direction of Leimus.

According to initial reports, as a result of the criminal attack the majority of the residents, who were unable to escape from the Somozist mercenaries, were kidnapped and forcefully taken to densely wooded areas in the direction of Honduran territory.

Other reports indicate that at the time of the attack on Francia Sirpe, Monsignor Salvador Schlaeffer, Father (Mondelier), and two other members of the clergy were in the town.

The whereabouts of these four clergymen are unknown at the present time.

Considering the fact that this criminal action is part of the plans financed, organized, and directed by the CIA, the Nicaraguan Government holds the U.S. and Honduran Governments responsible for whatever befalls the kidnapped civilian residents, Msgr Schlaeffer, and the other clergymen who were with him.

The Nicaraguan Armed Forces are making the necessary efforts to rescue all of the kidnapped persons.

The Nicaraguan Government has sent the Honduran Government a formal and forceful protest over these incidents, made possible only through the support their government gives to the Somozist mercenaries based in Honduran territory.

Managua, 20 December 1983

Other Kidnapped Persons Named

PA210400 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0319 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Managua, 20 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- The initial reaction of the Catholic Church to the kidnapping of the bishop of Bluefields has been to seek "direct" information on the incident.

"As soon as we have any clues about the kidnapping, we might hold an emergency meeting of the Episcopal Conference," said Monsignor Pablo Antonio Vega, president of the conference in Nicaragua.

In addition to Monsignor Salvador Schlaeffer Berg, the missing persons include a U.S. priest named Wendolin Shaffer, and Nicaraguan deacons with the surnames Alvarado and Baker.

"We are under the impression that the whole Miskito population of the small town was kidnapped," said Msgr Vega, who returned yesterday froma meeting of bishops in El Salvador.

ORTEGA-MONGE TALKS IN ARGENTINA PRAISED

PA161813 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] Mexico City -- According to the Mexican newspaper EXCELSIOR, the meeting held last Monday in Buenos Aires by Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Government Junta, and Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge produced one of the most valuable kinds of detente in Central America. According to the newspaper, Commander Ortega assured President Monge that the Sandinist revolution will maintain a policy of political and economic performance characterized by true nonalignment with Cuba and the Soviet Union. The Mexican paper stresses that Ortega's assertion is yet another expression of the opening undertaken in Nicaragua in an effort to contribute to the multilateral negotiations being conducted to arrive at a peace treaty for Central America, within the Contadora framework.

The paper notes that Monge insisted that Costa Rica and Nicaragua maintain respectful diplomatic relations. For his part, Commander Ortega called for a permanent dialogue between the two governments in order to prevent border incidents.

LA PRENSA VIEWS AMNESTY, ELECTION DECREES

PA201922 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 12 Dec 83 p 13

[Statement by Enrique Bolanos, leader of the Higher Council of Private Enterprise, on recent government decrees]

[Excerpt] In international propaganda, one decree is decribed as an amnesty decree. The word amnesty (from the Greek amnestia) implies forgetting the past. A word closely related to amnesty is amnesia, which means loss of memory. Amnesty, being a voluntary act of forgetting, implies commutation, pardon, a clean slate. According to our political tradition (tradition is law) it even includes forgetting and nonapplication of penal action, emptying the prisons. None of this is mentioned in the decree calling for amnesty. The words amnesty, commutation, pardon, forgetfulness, are not mentioned.

The decree states that nationals who may have left the country after 19 July 1979..." will have every guarantee conferred by this decree to return to the country and to their civilian life...." (Article 1) What are those guarantees? The decree fails to name them; it does not specify them; it does not even mention them. To return to civilian life also means being vulnerable to accusation, trial, and sentencing. This must be neither forgotten nor discarded. The decree doesnot cover those who have not left Nicaragua, who could be potential or real sinners but are free, on the run, or in prison. It specifically excludes those already condemned.

As to the restitution of property, to compensation, this decree applies only to farm proprietors who may have abandoned their lands -- I repeat -- who may have abandoned their lands, which, in turn, may have been occupied. (What does occupied mean?) By whom? I believe it means those invaded by peasants, but it does not specify. There is no restitution or compensation for industrialists, merchants, other farm proprietors, or service enterprise owners. Restitution does not cover tractors, equipment, houses, bank accounts, savings, livestock, and so forth. Actually nothing -- or nearly nothing -- will be restored or compensated for. This decree appears to be designed exclusively for peasants (mainly Miskitos) living near the borders, whose circumstances forced them to abandon Nicaragua. This decree is also intended to influence international public opinion.

The other decree, the one regarding elections, only states that the electoral process will begin on 31 January 1984; that the State Council will hold special sessions so it may complete the Electoral Law; and that the exact date for the 1985 elections will be announced on 21 February. It still does not specify if the elections will be for a Constituent Assembly, which will only draft a new constitution, or if it will have broad powers. We still do not know if other local and/or national authorities will be elected. We have only been told that the elections will not contest power because the people have already voted for themselves, for Sandinism. Neither are we assured concerning freedom of expression (press, radio, television), mobilization, or political rallies. Without guarantees for these freedoms, we neither can nor should talk about elections.

We must wait to see what will come out from this Pandora's box to see if at the bottom it may hold at least some hope.

RUMORS OF MID-NOVEMBER ATTACK ON BORGE CITED

PA210041 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 14 Dec 83 p 7

[Text] (IPZ) [not further identified] -- Curiously, the Sandinists have kept hidden the fact that an attempt on Tomas Borge's life occurred some days ago.

If the matter is analyzed, however, one realizes that this concealment is typical of communists.

Air accidents are kept hidden from the public in the Soviet Union as if this were a deadly sin or a fault in the system. Brezhnev was almost a mummy by the time his death was announced. When Andropov gets sick -- and this happens very frequently -- this information does not get through to the people. Is it perhaps a sin for accidents to occur, or for people to get sick or die?

It seems that the curious USSR behavior has reached Nicaragua. Proof of this is the fact that a smokescreen hides the attack on Borge. However, despite the silence of the Sandinists, the rumor has circulated. It is known that Borge was attacked on 13 or 14 November, possibly while riding in his car. He emerged from the attack unharmed, but three of his bodyguards were wounded.

The question is: Who carried out the attack?

Some have said the attackers might very well have been members of the high command who want to eliminate Borge, since he has been linked to drug trafficking and other activities that mar the government's image. The perpetrators might also have been persons from among those who want Borge out.

BRITISH LABOR PARTY DELEGATES MEET NUNEZ

PA170155 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] The State Council yesterday met with a Labor Party delegation from the Parliament of the United Kingdom. The need for international aid for the elections in Nicaragua was discussed. State Council President Commander Carlos Nunez and British Labor Party delegates (Donald Anderson) and (Steward Holland) of the Foreign Aid Commission met to analyze the revolution's electoral bill.

Commander Nunez told them that work on the first draft of the electoral bill was in progress and that the State Council would discuss it during its fifth session, in January of next year. Commander Nunez also noted the slander campaign that the opposition Democratic Coordinating Board has been conducting in some Western European countries.

Referring to U.S. policy toward Nicaragua, (Steward Holland) told the local news media that the Reagan administration has been incapable of understanding the Nicaraguan process.

RIGHTS COMMISSION CHARGES PRISONER MISTREATMENT

PA171258 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2343 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] Managua, 16 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- The Permanent Human Rights Commission of Nicaragua has charged before the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction that a number of prisoners in this Central American country are being mistreated. The charge was leveled in a letter signed by the commission's members and sent to the Government Junta, the FSLN National Directorate, and high-level Foreign Ministry officials today.

According to the letter, the mistreated inmates are members of a group that tried to escape from the Modelo Prison, 22 km north of Managua, on 9 October. An official reaction to the letter is expected within the next few days.

The commission, which has been accused by government officials of having ties with the counterrevolutionaries, says in the document that some of the inmates are being held in conditions of poor health and are completely dehydrated. The letter also says that nightly searches are conducted on the third row of the Modelo Prison, during which the inmates must lie on their stomachs and are told that they will be shot if they raise their heads.

The members of the commission, some of whom lead parties in opposition to the Sandinist government, request in the letter that the inmates' health conditions be improved and that they be allowed more visits from their relatives.

REGIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS MEETING BEGINS

PA191611 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] The 48th conference of the Central American Telecommunication Confederation [Confederacion de Telecomunicaciones de Centroamerica -- CONTELGA] opened yesterday at Managua's Camino Real Hotel with the presence of Central American delegates and a representative of the International Telecommunication Union, ITU.

The participants in the 2-day meeting, the first held in 1983, will approve the 1984 budget, elect new officers, and discuss telecommunications development projects in the region. These projects include an underwater cable between the United States and San Pedro Sula, Honduras, an alternate microwave route, new communications exchanges of those countries, and other proposals by the exploitation and maintenance committees.

Deputy Commander Enrique Schmidt, minister-director of the Nicaraguan TELCOR [Telecommunications and Postal Services Institute], opened the meeting. He stressed the importance of telecommunications for the social, political, and economic development of countries and of the resolutions that the Managua meeting will issue.

'IMMINENT CLASHES' SAID POSSIBLE BETWEEN REFUGEES

PA201529 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Recent incidents and the arrest of Eduardo Sanchez Renasco, leader of the Third Path Movement, M-3, have forced authorities to admit the possibility of imminent clashes between Nicaraguan refugee groups in Costa Rica.

Francisco Paz, a senior public security official, said that authorities are analyzing the situation to determine the seriousness of the apparent differences between members of ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] and dissidents of this organization who defected to form the M-3 group.

Members of the Rural Guard arrested a group of ARDE dissidents who were about to join the M-3 group. According to reports from the Rural Guard, one of the individuals arrested, known as El Gringo, has been accused of murdering a woman in Guanacaste.

Meanwhile, public security has not discarded the possibility of a general roundup, which would be followed immediately by an invitation to the leaders of the contending anti-Sandinist groups to leave the country as soon as possible. Both groups have accused the other of being manipulated by infiltrators sent by the Managua government, which could aggravate the situation if clashes were to continue.

Men who fought together against Somoza a few years ago are now threatening and accusing each other and want to use our soil for a fight among themselves.

Commander Sergio Prado [M-3 press director] told a group of journalists last week that he had a recording proving that Eden Pastora had issued death threats against the M-3. M-3 has also claimed that the Rural Guard somehow acted in coordination with ARDE to arrest Eduardo Sanchez and other M-3 members who have been accused of stealing an ARDE vehicle.

In conclusion, we seem to be facing a struggle between the M-3 and Pastora's group, which our authorities will not tolerate since none of the Nicaraguans belonging to these groups have appropriate documents to reside in Costa Rica.

VOICE OF SANDINO REPORTS ARDE COMMUNIQUES

Neuva Guinea Clash

PA200419 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 20 Dec 83

[War Bulletin No 121 issued by the General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance's Armed Forces "in the mountains of Nicaragua" on 16 December 1983]

[Text] The ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] General Command reports to the people of Nicaragua and the world:

1. At 1200 on 9 December, the General Francisco Estrada Column of the Fang Six Group ambushed troops of the so-called Sandinist People's Army, EPS, between (Boca de Piedra) and San Roque in Nueva Guinea jurisdiction, inflicting numerous casualties.

2. Our forces regret the heroic fall of combatant Nicolas Sequeira Martinez, known as "Peccary," and another combatant known as "Chatelito."

3. During the clash, which lasted 3 hours, there was much rifle fire. The action concluded at 1500 on the same day.

4. Our fighting spirit and morale are very high as we advance farther into Nicaragua, wielding our liberating rifles.

Without totalitarianism or a return to the past!

Ambush of Boat

PA200433 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 20 Dec 83

[War Bulletin No 122 issued by the General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance's Armed Forces "in the mountains of Nicaragua" on 16 December 1983]

[Text] The ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] General Command reports to the people of Nicaragua and the world:

1. At 1400 on 14 December, a Saturn unit [unidad Saturno] led by Companero Creosote belonging to the FH3 [not further identified], ambushed an EPS [Sandinist People's Army] launch at the boom across the (Eloisa) Canal leading into the Punta Gorda River, and inflicted one dead and six wounded on the enemy.

2. Our fighting spirit and morale are very high as we advance deeper into Nicaragua wielding our liberating rifles.

Without totalitarianism or a return to the past!

HAVANA DETAILS GOVERNMENT, REBEL ACTIVITIES

Ortega Urges U.S. Action

FL161639 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua, has exhorted the United States to define via actions if it wants to negotiate or exercise a policy of force.

Ortega made statements to the press after meeting with U.S. Senators John Chafee, chairman of a subcommittee of the Select Committee on Intelligence, and Jeff Bingaman of the Armed Services Committee.

Nicaragua has proposed joint agreements for the withdrawal of advisers, reduction of arms, stop construction of military bases, elimination of war exercises, and other measures of an economic and political nature requiring on spot inspection to guarantee the fulfillment of possible treaties, Ortega stressed. Nicaragua can make no further proposals than those contained within the framework of the Contadora Group efforts, and now it is the U.S. turn to say if it wants negotiations or to observe a policy of force. The leader also told the Spanish daily LA VANGUARDIA of Barcelona that during the inauguration festivities held in Argentina, Nicaragua tried to arrange a meeting with U.S. Vice President George Bush, but it was rejected, wasting this excellent opportunity.

Minister Borge's Statements

FL171619 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] The counterrevolutionary chiefs and the Somozist National Guard officers will never return to Nicaragua, Interior Minister Commander Tomas Borge has asserted. With such a statement the Sandinist leader was responding to the demands formulated by Nicaragua's right-wing opposition, which is trying to promote a dialogue with the counterrevolutionary leaders and full amnesty for the former Guardsmen of the Somoza regime.

They are condemned to never return and, if they do, he stressed, they will have to face the revolutionary justice. Borge made the statements during a tour of the northern part of the country.

Elsewhere in his statements, the interior minister stated: If those who owned factories, wealth, haciendas, luxurious homes, and mansions want to return, let them come and we will give them the opportunity to work together with our workers and peasants so that they may learn what sweating in the factories and out at the furrows means.

However, Borge was categoric when referring to the Somozist National Guard officers. He said: We are loyal to the blood shed by those who fell, which is why we will never betray our people. They will never return.

Contra Deserters Return

FL201426 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] The counterrevolution is beginning to fall apart, according to public opinion in northern Nicaragua, where over 200 deserters from counterrevolutionary groups have returned to the country in just 2 weeks.

Most of them are residents of border areas of the Nueva Segovia and Madriz Departments in Region One, the most affected by mercenary attacks launched from Honduras.

France's Blanca Cited

PA201537 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Antoine Blanca, the French roving ambassador for Latin America, has stressed Nicaragua's efforts to fulfill the 21 points of the Contadora Group to achieve peace in Central America. Blanca added that if Nicaragua's example were followed by the other countries in the area and by the United States, there would be a chance for a negotiated political solution to the regional crisis.

Blanca warned that it would be a fatal mistake leading to general confrontation to assume that the Sandinist revolution is thus giving proof of its weakness, and that it has acted in this manner due to the destabilizing activities carried out by its enemies.

Finally, Blanca reiterated his country's support for the Contadora Group's peace efforts in Central America. The source of the current developments in Central America, he said in conclusion, need not be sought in East-West confrontations, but in underdevelopment, injustice, and the people's poverty.

In the last few hours [as heard], the French diplomat has visited Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama.

Repatriation Commission

PA182213 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] A commission comprised of members of international religious organizations and the Nicaraguan Government will coordinate the return of Nicaraguans who seek the protection of the decrees that guarantee their return to the country.

Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco has stated that thousands of Miskitos, who were taken to Honduras under the deceit of counterrevolutionaries, live in Honduran concentration camps.

He said that efforts are underway with nations of the area to carry out the repatriation of those who wish to return. International organizations have promised to pay for the trip of these exiles.

Tomas Borge, interior minister and commander of the Sandinist revolution, reported that another group of 31 peasants who left Nicaragua encouraged by counterrevolutionaries has returned to seek the benefits of the amnesty that guarantees they will receive their property again and will be allowed to work.

Counterrevolutionary Operation

PA161806 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] Some 3,000 counterrevolutionaries have entered Nicaraguan territory from Honduras through various zones in the Nueva Segovia and Jinotega Departments, Commander Juan Jose Ubeda, second in charge of state security, has disclosed.

Ubeda told journalists that the counterrevolutionary forces, which are organized into contingents that contain between 500 and 600 men, must be resupplied by planes. Ubeda added that in view of this possibility, the antiaircraft defense system is ready.

He added that some of these counterrevolutionary units have been seen in San Fernando, Santa Clara, and (Cachana) Hill, where they sustained 11 casualties in clashes with the peasant militias. Ubeda stressed that the possibility that this new and important operation might be part of a large-scale plan designed to materialize the threat of an invasion of Nicaragua has not been discarded.

According to Commander Ubeda, the so-called counterrevolutionary task forces began this new operation 9 December. One of their goals is apparently to occupy the city of Jinotega, 176 km north of Managua.

Solidarity Meeting in Paris

PA191954 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] Some 500 politicians, labor leaders, artists, and intellectuals from 14 Western European countries participated in a conference of solidarity with Nicaragua, the Central American peoples, and peace, which was held in Paris.

At the end of the conference the participants issued a resolution which will be sent to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and Thomas O'Neill, speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. The document condemned broad attempts to destabilize the Nicaraguan Government, directly promoted by the United States, and expressed support for the Contadora Group peace efforts in Central America.

The resolution also asked Perez de Cuellar and O'Neill to persevere in the efforts to oppose the granting of more funds for CIA actions against Nicaragua and also to prevent discriminatory treatment of Nicaragua by international financial institutions.

Several speakers proposed sending international brigades to Nicaragua including workers, technicians, and doctors.

Intellectuals Seek Solidarity

PA201936 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Nicaraguan intellectuals and artists have issued a call to their counterparts all over the world, asking them to contribute to stopping U.S. attacks on Sandino's fatherland. In a document published by the Spanish newspaper EL PAIS, the group warns that if the United States intervened militarily in Nicaragua, it would set Central America and the world afire, the whole world would be consumed by nuclear fire.

The document adds: For us, life is synonymous with self-determination and sovereignty, as we cannot accept any other way of life other than freedom. We prefer to fight to the last moment and, if necessary, to die.

The document stresses in conclusion that not even by killing all of the Nicaraguan people will the Sandinist people's revolution be eliminated.

Foreign Harvest Aid

FL201436 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] In the next few weeks more than 700 foreigners, mostly from Europe, will arrive in Nicaragua to carry out volunteer work helping in the cotton, coffee, and sugarcane harvests in a demonstration of international solidarity with the Sandinist revolution.

BRIEFS

AGRICULTURAL AGREEMENT WITH USSR -- The Agricultural Development and Agrarian Reform Ministry, MIDINRA, has signed an important agreement with the Soviet Agriculture Ministry on technical cooperation in the supply of materials for equipment. Deputy Minister Roberto Gutierrez signed the agreement on behalf of the MIDINRA. The event was attended by officials of MIDINRA and by members of a mission of Soviet agricultural technicians. Deputy Minister Gutierrez expressed thanks for the technical cooperation that the Soviet people and government give to the MIDINRA. He added that with the technical cooperation in the supply of material for equipment, the current difficulties will decrease. [Summary] [Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 19 Dec 83 PA]

BATTALION 70-09 RETURNS -- The people of Siuna, Bonanza, and Rosita in Northern Zelaya have happily welcomed back Battalion 70-09, which victoriously returned after spending 7 months fighting the Somozist counterrevolutionaries. [Text] [Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 19 Dec 83 PA]

NEW SPANISH, GDR AMBASSADORS -- The new Spanish and GDR ambassadors, Luis Cuero y Fabrega and Heinrich Marz, yesterday presented their credentials to Rafael Cordova Rivas, member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction. [Summary] [Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 8 Dec 83 p 8 PA]

BLUEFIELDS WORKERS TO BULGARIA -- Denis Cruz Pineda, official in charge of employment and salary of the Labor Ministry in Bluefields, has reported that 22 workers of the Deep Waters Port project that is being carried out in Bluefields will leave for Bulgaria on 12 December for training. He also announced that at the national level 5,000 construction workers will go to Bulgaria in 1984. [Text] [Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 3 Dec 83 p 2 PA]

COSTA RICAN INTERNATIONALISTS -- A group of doctors, technicians, and paramedics of Costa Rica who comprise the "Jorge Bravo" Brigade are visiting our country to learn about the aggression that Nicaraguan is facing and the progress that is being made in the health sector. [Summary] [Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 7 Dec 83 p 4 PA]

SUGAR PRODUCTION -- Commander of the Revolution Jaime Wheelock Roman, minister of agricultural development and agrarian reform, today said that Nicaraguan sugar production is sufficient to maintain exports, thus complying with sale commitments, and still to meet our domestic demand. He predicted that Nicaragua will produce 5.2 million quintals in this new sugar harvest. Half of this figure will be exported. [Summary] [Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 Dec 83 PA]

CASTRO PRESIDES OVER PARTY PLENUM MEETING

FL201302 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] The eighth plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba took place yesterday, Monday. The meeting was presided over by the Central Committee's first secretary, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. During the meeting, participants analyzed a report on the program of measures taken in compliance with the resolution of the sixth plenum of the Central Committee and on the program of measures prepared for 1984. The plenum approved a resolution calling for maintaining efforts in saving, austerity, and efficiency, and the precise completion of the main tasks set forth to continue the increase in the country's economic and defense capacity.

Drafts of the social and economic plan and of the state budget for 1984 were also examined, the latter of which will be considered in the next session of the People's Government National Assembly, beginning tomorrow, Wednesday. The draft of the party's budget for next year was also studied. Fidel made concluding remarks at the plenum.

PERMANENT ANPP WORK COMMITTEES TO HOLD MEETINGS

FL201358 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Today, the permanent work committees of the People's Government National Assembly [ANPP] will meet today to better present reports to the fifth ordinary session of the second term of the ANPP, which will open tomorrow, Wednesday.

During the morning, the Committees on Agriculture and the Sugar Industry, Food Production, Constitutional and Legal Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Local Organizations, Health and Environment, Culture, Art and Recreation, and Labor and Social Security will meet. During the afternoon, the Committees on Global Activity, Economy, Industry, Transportation and Communication, Construction and Housing, Commerce, Food Service, Youth and Children, Education, and Science and Ports will meet. At 1830 on Wednesday the Defense Committee will meet, and tonight the Internal Order Committee will meet. The permanent work committees of the ANPP, comprised of deputies from the different provinces, work on the control of the procedures for implementing measures proposed by the voters.

ANPP Head Comments

FL210041 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Flavio Bravo, member of the party Central Committee and president of the People's Government National Assembly [ANPP], has told newsmen that all deputies are ready to begin the body's activities tomorrow, Wednesday, at the Palace of Conventions. All opinions, bills, drafts of reports, and other documents have been studied, Flavio Bravo added. He said: Because of the interest on topics to be studied, we expect most fruitful results in this fifth meeting of the second legislature.

The ANPP president participated in the meeting of the Committee on Work, Constitutional and Juridical Affairs, which is charged with the responsibility of preparing and submitting an opinion on the bill dealing with national symbols. Prior to the discussions, the assembly committees held meetings with representatives of various institutions to review the fulfillment of the 1983 work plan and approve the one for 1984.

COMMENTARY VIEWS CIA 'PROPAGANDA MACHINERY'

PA201635 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Dec 83

["World Events" commentary]

[Text] The huge U.S. propaganda machinery is thoroughly analyzed in an article by Roberto Alvarez Quinones and published in the Cuban newspaper GRANMA. According to the GRANMA journalist, this propaganda machinery includes not only the official secretariat for disinformation, the U.S. Information Agency [USIA], but also the CIA and the Yankee Pentagon. The difference between these three agencies, the journalist adds, is that the CIA hides its face, the Pentagon shows half of it, and USIA shows its face, even if it wears sophisticated makeup.

The GRANMA journalist recalls that until Ronald Reagan took office, the CIA was not allowed -- at least in theory -- to aim its psychological warfare operations at the U.S. people. However, in December 1981, Reagan authorized open CIA manipulation of U.S. public opinion. In order to carry out its psychological warfare plans, the CIA uses a fabulous media network comprised of newspapers, magazines, television programs, radio broadcasts, films, books, pamphlets, and other publications. According to the U.S. newspaper INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, the CIA's propaganda empire includes over 800 agencies. Another U.S. newspaper, THE NEW YORK TIMES, in 1977 announced the names of 50 of those agencies, 12 of them editorial houses which had published over 1,000 books in the United States and numerous Latin American countries.

At least one-third of the CIA budget, which according to official data totals over $12 billion, is dedicated to propaganda activities both in the United States and abroad. To this sum one must add the profits obtained from the banks, airlines, and investment agencies owned by the CIA. These profits are invested in the covert operations of this organization for espionage and subversion.

Another important resource employed by the Yankee CIA is the recruitment of journalists, who carry out intelligence and espionage activities in dozens of countries. It is no secret that dozens of journalists of Latin American publications and correspondents of the U.S. agencies ASSOCIATED PRESS and UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL work for the CIA.

From 1966 to 1975, the so-called WORLD FEATURES, which posed as a news agency, was one of its favorite fronts. In 1970 alone, that agency had over 700 commentaries attacking Salvador Allende, in those days an aspiring candidate to the Chilean presidency, published in hundreds of newspapers all over the world.

Another such agency, the COPLEY NEWS SERVICE, which THE NEW YORK TIMES describes as the CIA's eyes and ears, has operated in Latin America for over 30 years.

On other continents, the CIA employs similar organizations with the same subversive and espionage aims. Outstanding among these are the so-called Asia Fund, the Anticommunist League of the Peoples of Asia, the International Organization for Freedom of the Press and Information, the Afro-American Institute of New York, and others.

For this huge espionage and subversion machinery, which is the CIA, no country or important personality is unimportant. All of them, Americans included, fall within its range of activities.

RAINFORD DISCUSSES RIFT WITHIN CARICOM

FL210059 Bridgetown CANA in English 0025 GMT 21 Dec 83

[By Edwin Ali]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 20 (CANA) -- Although there are deep differences within the Caribbean Community (Caricom), Secretary General Roderick Rainford said today that the rift can be resolved because of the strong feeling of commitment to maintain the regional integration movement. Speaking at an end-of-the-year news conference at the Secretariat, Rainford said "there are serious political differences going on within Caricom and I do not think that it would be in anybody's interest to brush these under the rug any moment."

Rainford said that he has been visiting countries in the region during which he has spoken to people from all walks of life in the private and public sector, and "there are controversial issues being debated in which there are strong differences of opinion, but behind all of this, there remains the recognition of the necessity to maintain and promote integration." The division among the 13 Caricom member nations was apparent over the U.S.-led invasion of Grenada. Seven islands provided troops and policemen for the operation, which was opposed by four others.

Rainford also spoke of the importance of communication without the regional integration movement, and added that with "the serious political controversy going on, I am imbued with the feeling of confidence that this crisis can be resolved, and I think that this feeling is shared by people from all walks of life in the Caribbean community."

He said that although there were differences and political controversies, there is no indication within the various member countries that the organs and institutions in Caricom should not continue to function in the normal manner. "As a matter of fact, there are a number of very critical issues in a number of various areas that one member state or another are very keen to have brought up at the relevant institution for resolution and settlement," he said.

Rainford said the Council of Ministers will meet in Georgetown mid-next-month," he said. The secretary general said this augurs good for the future of the movement.

Responding to questions from the newsmen, he said he has not received any formal request or proposal for the formation of Caricom Two. Rainford also said there has been no formal request for the removal of the Secretariat from Georgetown, as has been called for by Dominica Prime Minister Eugenia Charles.

Next Summit in Bahamas

FL210053 Bridgetown CANA in English 0020 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] Georgtown, Guyana, Dec 20 (CANA) -- The Caribbean Community (Caricom) Secretariat is in consultation with governments in the region for the holding of the next Caricom heads meeting to be held in the Bahamas in July 1984, Secretary General Roderick Rainford said here today. As far as the Secretariat knows, the conference is still scheduled to be held in July next year, he said.

At this moment we are planning for the conference, and that is not something that is being carried out in vacuum or within the Secretariat; it is planning that is being carried out together with member countries, he said. Rainford, who was speaking to newsmen at the traditional end of year conference, said the main task for the Secretariat next year will be in the trade area, in looking very carefully at our inter-regional trade, the regime for such trade, and the machinery established under the treaty for such trade.

He said also that the year will open with an important meeting of the Council of Ministers in mid-January, at which the question of trade will be a major area of attention. "Inter-regional trade has been affected at this time by what is the future of the multilateral clearing facility, how the rules of origin will operate, the modifications that need to be done, and the question of exchange rates within the region," he said.

Rainford said the Council of Ministers will also deal with the question of licensing. There is very serious debate, deliberation, and study going on now, for example, of the recommendatons made by the Caricom minister of finance at their Port of Spain meeting, he said.

BARBADOS

$212.6 MILLION FOREIGN RESERVES REPORTED

FL202151 Bridgetown CANA in English 2138 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Dec 20 (CANA) -- Barbados' foreign reserves in September reached 212.6 million dollars (one Bds dollar; 50 cents U.S.) up nearly 100 million dollars over the same month last year, according to the Central Bank's latest issue of its "economic and financial statistics."

In September 1982, Barbados' foreign reserves stood at 113.3 million dollars. Reserves in April this year reached 230.6 million dollars, the highest so far for 1983.

Total national debt for September was 850.1 million dollars, compared with 748.3 million dollars for September 1982.

The foreign component of the debt stood at 345.8 million dollars, compared with 278.7 million dollars for the same month last year, an increase of 67.1 million dollars.

Domestic debt for September was put at 504.3 million dollars, up from 469.6 million dollars.

GRENADA

COARD LOOKS FOR ATTORNEYS IN U.S., JAMAICA

FL202201 Bridgetown CANA in English 2110 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Dec 20 (CANA) -- Grenadian lawyers are turning down large retainers to represent former Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, who is seeking the services of a battery of U.S. attorneys to have him freed from Richmond Hill top security prison here, sources close to the Coard family said today.

Coard, detained along with others in connection with the bloody military coup of October 19, has already hired Jamaican woman lawyer Jacqueline Samuels-Brown, who was called to the bar here last Thursday, the sources said. Mrs Samuels-Brown met with Coard at the prison last week. No details were given of the meeting.

The sources said one of Coard's brothers who lives in the U.S. has approached two American lawyers, Larry Schilling and Ramsey Clark, a U.S. attorney general under the Lyndon Johnson administration, but they would not be able to represent him in court here since only lawyers who have qualified in a Commonwealth country may do so. Clark, the sources said, was on the island last week but was denied an audience with Coard.

Coard was among four dozen persons detained in the aftermath of the October 25 U.S.-invasion of the island to topple a leftist military junta that had seized power six days earlier, executing Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and several others in the process. The ex-deputy prime minister is widely believed to have been the architect of the coup to unseat Bishop from power. Coard was also the finance, trade, and planning minister in the deposed People's Revolutionary Government (PRG).

Mrs Coard Asks for Release

FL202141 Bridgetown CANA in English 2105 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Dec 20 (CANA) -- Mrs Phyllis Coard, a former junior minister in Grenada's deposed left-wing government, has written to the interim administration asking for her release so that she can travel to Jamaica to look after her three children, informed sources said.

The Jamaica-born Mrs Coard was detained with her husband, Bernard, former deputy prime minister, after U.S. forces invaded Grenada last October 25. The Coards have been linked with the leaders of the coup last October 19 in which Prime Minister Maurice Bishop was killed, an action which precipitated the military intervention.

The sources said Mrs Coard wrote to then Attorney General Anthony Rushford three weeks ago seeking her release from the top security Richmond Hill prison. Mrs Coard is reported to have told Rushford, who has since resigned, that she wished to join her children who are being looked after by friends in Jamaica.

"Mrs Coard said in the letter that her children were in Jamaica suffering from stress and strain and now they were staying with friends and not with her parents, as people believe. She also talked about being no threat to the Advisory Council and how she can assure the council that she is not a threat to the security of the country," one well-placed source told CANA.

The new Grenada Government, the sources said, have already replied to the letter from Mrs Coard, but no details could be given on the nature of its response. However, they said her letter was handed over to a detention tribunal set up by the interim government to review the cases of all persons held in detention at Richmond Hill.

Mrs Coard was the former deputy minister of women's affairs in the deposed People's Revolutionary Government (PRG), and the president of the National Women's Organisation of Grenada.

Meanwhile, sources close to the detention tribunal said today that it is still to be approached directly by any of the detainees at Richmond Hill prison. They indicated, however, that letters from two detainees -- George Cayenne and a former soldier Ashley Folkes -- requesting their release have been handed over to the tribunal by the new Grenada Government.

Detainees are entitled to have their cases reviewed by a tribunal about a month after being taken into custody.

Among the persons held in detention at the Richmond Hill prison are former Government Ministers Selwyn Strachan and Chris de Riggs, and members of the 16-man military junta which seized power in the coup.

JAMAICA

LIST OF MINISTERS SWORN IN ON 19 DECEMBER

FL201840 Bridgetown CANA in English 1824 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Dec 20 (CANA) -- The following are the names of ministers and their portfolios in Jamaica's new cabinet which was sworn in yesterday.

Prime minister and minister of finance and planning information, and culture -- Edward Seaga;

Deputy prime ministers and minister of foreign affairs and foreign trade -- Hugh Shearer;

Minister of construction, as well as responsibility for electoral matters -- Bruce Golding;

Minister of agriculture -- Percival Broderick;

Minister of public service and social security -- Errol Anderson;

Minister of labour and leader of government business in the House of Representatives -- J.A.G. Smith;

Minister of education -- Dr Mavis Gilmour;

Minister of industry and commerce -- Douglas Vaz;

Minister of health -- Dr Kenneth Baugh;

Minister of local government -- Neville Lewis;

Minister of tourism -- Anthony Abrahams;

Minister of youth, sports, and community development -- Edmund Bartlett;

Minister of environment, science, and technology -- Dr Ronald Irvine;

Minister of mining and energy -- Hugh Hart;

Minister of national security and justice -- Winston Spaulding.

MANLEY SAYS ECONOMY 'HEADED FOR HAVOC'

FL201858 Bridetown CANA in English 1818 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Dec 20 (CANA) -- People's National Party (PNP) leader Michael Manley has said that the Jamaican economy is heading for havoc in early 1984, and has challenged Prime Minister Edward Seaga to call new elections when an updated voters list and electoral reforms are in place.

The PNP boycotted last week's general elections, protesting the use of a three-year-old voters list, which it claimed disfranchised 150,000 potential voters, and its being called without the implementation of procedures to eliminate voting fraud. The party's boycott meant that Prime Minister Seaga's Jamaica Labor Party (JLP) secured all 60 seats in the House of Representatives, and a new 16-member cabinet was sworn in yesterday.

Manley said in a statement that the economy was in a "slide shute" down, while Seaga played childish games. Recalling that the Seaga government, when it came to power first in 1980, had promised economic recovery in three years, the PNP leader said that the economic indicators had gone downward as the government made promises and reported growth.

He said that Jamaica's foreign debt had increased from 1.6 billion dollars (one Jam dollar; 32 cents U.S.) to nearly 2.8 billion dollars in June of this year, while the trade deficit had quadrupled to 478 million U.S. dollars last year. Manley said that all the major export crops had declined, unemployment had risen, and the prices of basic commodities had also risen.

The situation will worsen, he said, when the effects of last month's 43 per cent devaluation of the Jamaican dollar begin to be felt as price rises, so far held off, are instituted. "New taxes may have to be imposed on the already over-burdened taxpayers or serious budget cuts applied to government expenditure," he said.

Further, Manley said, there was the possibility of further bi-monthly devaluations of the Jamaican dollar according to a government paper, which says the present rate of 3.15 dollars to one American dollar is to be re-assessed every two weeks, creating planning problems for businesses. Said Manley: "The JLP government led by Mr Seaga since 1980 has steadily destroyed the economy and confidence in our future, and we challenge the prime minister to call general elections as soon as the new electoral system is in place."

In Thursday's general election, there was voting in only six of the 60 constituencies, and 54 of the JLP candidates were returned on November 29, nomination day, unopposed. It is estimated that the voter turnout was between 40 and 45 per cent, and the JLP said that 55 per cent of the people who voted for it in 1980 in these districts cast their ballot.

But Manley described the election and the government as "bogus," and said that the voting showed that there was no confidence in the administration. "Mr Seaga does not have a mandate and will not command any local or institutional confidence until the new electoral system is in place, at which time the PNP will be prepared to face the JLP in elections which will be fair and in which no bogus voting can take place," Manley said.

Seaga has consistently said that he will not be pressured into calling a new election. Asked after the swearing-in of his cabinet whether it was in place for the five-year term, he replied, "Yes, obviously." The prime minister has acknowledged that the economy ran into serious problems this year, during which the country twice failed International Monetary Fund (IMF) economic performance tests. He, however, said on Saturday that a growth rate of over one per cent was still expected, compared with last year's 0.2 per cent. And the country was posed for a recovery in 1984 2ith the vital bauxite/alumina sector showing signs of an upturn.

"We are poised to move back again on a path of economic recovery if we will allow ourselves to do so by firmly fixing our purpose on positive goals, national interests, not on negative targets of selfish gain," Seaga said.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

OFFICIALS TO TALK WITH GRENADIAN DELEGATION

FL202220 Bridgetown CANA in English 2156 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Dec 20 (CANA) -- A three-man delegation from Grenada's interim administration will have talks here tomorrow with Trinidad and Tobago government officials on technical and economic cooperation, an official statement said. The Grenada team will be led by Arnold Cruickshank, spokesman for agriculture, and includes Lauriston Wilson, permanent secretary in the Ministry of Finance, and Jimmy Emmanuel, Grenada high commissioner to Port of Spain.

The statement said the visit is a follow-up to a request for assistance made by Grenada Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon to the government of Prime Minister George Chambers. Trinidad and Tobago said it regretted the U.S.-led invasion of Grenada last October. The interim Advisory Council was set up shortly after as a first step to returning Grenada to elected government.

The delegation will also "pay a courtesy call" on External Affairs Minister Basil Ince, the statement said.

FISCAL SYSTEM REQUIRES MORE PRUDENT MANAGEMENT

FL171518 Bridgetown CANA in English 1450 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Dec 17 (CANA) -- Oil-rich Trinidad and Tobago will have to exercise more prudent management of its finances in the 1980's, as government continues to be hamstrung by falling revenue from the key petroleum sector, according to the World Bank.

"The key problem facing the economy of Trinidad and Tobago during the 1980's will be the management of the finances of the government in the face of declining revenues from petroleum," the bank stated in a report on development issues here dated June, 1983. The report is based on the findings of a World Bank economic mission which visited the oil-rich state in the middle of last year. The team's study was meant to assist government in the preparation of its National Development Plan.

"As the fiscal system has developed to be highly dependent on petroleum, it is weak in the non-petroleum part of the economy," said the report, which saw a "strong interconnection" between the fiscal system and the balance of payments. If the growth of the economy is slowed, the World Bank explained, the balance of payments improves, as fewer imports are demanded. At the same time the sources of government income, taxes on imports, income, and consumption, slow down and the welfare needs rise, thus increasing the fiscal deficit.

"Increasing the growth of the economy improves the fiscal situation, but creates significant balance of payments deficits," the report stated. It added: "In fact, given the projected decline in petroleum revenues and a continuation of past trends and structure of the economy of Trinidad and Tobago, there is no growth rate of the economy for which the fiscal situation and the balance of payments are simultaneously of manageable proportions."

According to the World Bank, the key to projection package which promises economic viability up to 1990 was "a sharp reduction" in the country's public sector investment programme in "the next few years."

BURNHAM PLEDGES TO FIGHT CARICOM 'BREAK UP'

FL201804 Bridgetown CANA in English 1712 GMT 20 Dec 83

[By Edwin Ali]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 20 (CANA) -- President Forbes Burnham pledged Monday to work towards reuniting the Caribbean Community (Caricom) in the face of what he said were attempts to break up the 13-nation grouping and isolate Guyana.

Burnham's remarks were made to thousands of party supporters at a rally in Georgetown that brought an end to celebrations marking the 19th anniversary of his People's National Congress (PNC) government.

They followed Guyana's sharp differences with seven Caricom member nations that participated in the U.S.-led invasion of Grenada. Dominica's Prime Minister Eugenia Charles has publicly called for the exclusion of Guyana, a founder member, from the community, and the removal of the Secretariat from Georgetown. Jamaica has also initiated moves to restructure the 10-year-old regional integration movement into a "Caricom Two," excluding Guyana.

Burnham told supporters the special two-day congress of the PNC which ended Sunday examined the regional situation and members "were cognisant of the fact that there is an attempt to...first of all, to isolate Guyana, secondly, to break up Caricom, and thirdly, to set up some puppet organisation called Caricom Two."

Burnham said the special congress reasserted its belief in Caricom and pledged to devote its energies, the energies of the party, towards rebuilding Caricom and ending the conflicts "within our region."

He said that is not going to be easy, because "whereas Guyana speaks with (the) voice of Guyanese, some others are mere echoes of their masters."

The president said when a nation chose to bow to another nation or country, all that it is doing is to allow itself to be used as a tool and as an old rag which would be discarded when there is no further use.

He said, "whether they have Caricom Two or Caricom Three, or Caricom 100, the Caricom headquarters will continue to be here and to be owned by the cooperative republic of Guyana."

Burnham said the congress also looked at the internal situation in Guyana, recognising that independence has to be supported by a firm economy, and members reaffirmed the agricultural, forestry, and mineral thrust, and worked out the specific involvement of the various local bodies.

The congress returned Burnham unopposed as leader of the PNC and appointed Prime Minister Dr Ptolemy Reid as deputy leader and general secretary. Among those elected to new executive is Burnham's wife, Viola.